

The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a lush green landscape. In the foreground, a dense field of green grass or low-lying vegetation covers a hillside that slopes upwards from the bottom left towards the right. In the distance, more rolling green hills are visible under a bright blue sky filled with several large, fluffy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and natural.

FORCE 10

POLITICAL WILL V LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

ELIZABETH MANN

FORCE 10 by Elizabeth Mann

THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

The Wind Industry, young and ambitious, appears determined to be the leading renewable energy source in the UK. In its haste to achieve this end it seems to be taking short cuts, many of which appear to raise serious issues of governance. Some examples of these are to be found in the book

As I see it they are:

- 1) Listing names of 'objectors' on their web site and CD Rom under the title **'We know where you live'**.
- 2) Apparently misreading public opinion to claim substantial support for a specific project
- 3) Deploying misleading concepts such as:
 - 'Annual requirements of x thousand homes'
 - ' Installed capacity'
 - ' Saving y tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions'
- 4) Government itself has contributed to this democratic deficit by allowing developments in excess of 50 MW installed capacity to be determined by the Secretary of State for Industry; so side stepping the planning process.
- 5) Is not a serious governance issue raised by DTI's appointment of such a large proportion of wind enthusiasts to the supposedly objective Renewables Advisory Board?

Please take time to read this book and share with me my concerns.

I have written this to help protect our valued landscapes from unnecessary destruction and to preserve my sanity. These facts I can no longer live with without sharing them with those I believe care about our countryside.

Thank you

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FOREWORD

A direct result of pressure to increase renewable energy capacity to help combat accelerating climate change has put our countryside under threat as never before. In particular proposals for the commercial exploitation of wind energy are threatening the special character and qualities of areas valued not only by British citizens but also by people throughout the world.

Obviously a wider range of renewable energy sources combined with energy conservation, energy efficiency and reducing the need to travel all need to be considered.

However “The Long Fight to Save Barningham High Moor” was the story of a fight to protect a valued landscape against an inappropriate and damaging wind power station. To protect it not only for its wild beauty but those intrinsic qualities, difficult to quantify but once experienced never forgotten. It is the only true account and I personally wrote it to correct the misinformation recorded elsewhere.

Now it seems the pressure on planning authorities to approve applications for wind power stations is growing. Therefore it is necessary to write this sequel since certain events not recognised as material-planning considerations must be aired. This in the interest of democracy

INTRODUCTION

This sequel is to all intents and purposes a piece of Social History, which in the interest of democracy must be documented.

It concerns local people and a planning application that caused a great deal of stress to and divisions within the community. There was a lack of openness and transparency on the part of the developers. Although a specific issue, the general situation follows a similar pattern where might rides roughshod over the community.

Without a third party right of appeal developers are in a heads they win, tails we loose situation. They have considerable funds available whilst local councils have limited resources and ordinary people need to rely on voluntary funding. As a result, the threat of an appeal, often discourages planning committees from refusing an application

Government policy on “Best value in Planning” states that developers must be allowed to develop and objectors allowed to object. Why then do successive energy ministers and developers term objectors as Nimby (Not in My back Yard)?

Stephen Byers in his speech on the Planning Green Paper (26/07/01) said the system would give communities the right to express their views .Yet some councils do not allow or have attempted to curtail any public speaking at planning meetings

My aim is simply to alert the wider public to facts and events relating to the planning system on general and renewable energy in particular. It will be left to the public themselves to do the joined up thinking!

Chapter 1

SARS WARS

It's an ill wind that blows no one any good as the saying goes.

That was the situation in April 2003. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Sars), which had started in mainland China, was causing worldwide disruption. As a visitor had just arrived from Hong Kong, to stay with me, I had no choice but resort to a self enforced quarantine. The spin off from the official 10 day period gave me the time I had sought for so long to start to write a sequel to the original booklet,

“The long fight to save Barningham High Moor”

Although the damaging development was to be the then largest wind farm in England it was always a landscape protection fight. Many related events have not been documented as they were not planning issues. Yet they had the potential to influence the outcome of the planning application. Truth is stranger than fiction and the connection between Sars and wind power is quite bizarre

The wind power Asia 2003 conference was held in April and it was reported that the spectre of Sars had hit the conference so I inquired and received this e-mail.

Dear Elizabeth

4 companies cancelled their participation. Some of the companies changed their speakers from overseas to local persons. About 1/3 overseas visitors cancelled their trip. So we expect that there will be more delegates will come to the event in 2004

Regards

Marco Wang Unique International Exhibition Limited

. With such a potential market somewhat curtailed I wondered if it would result in more pressure on our countryside throughout the UK. Amec Wind Energy stated at the Conference held in September 2002, hosted by CPRE North East and entitled “Getting The Wind Up!” that planning delays affected the cash flow, something businesses could not afford.

For a long time the serious nature of Sars was not apparent or it was not admitted. It seemed there was a lack of openness. Fighting broke out in certain areas as people tried to find out exactly what was happening, amid constant denials there was any problem.

Abstract from World News 9/05/2003 from Oliver August in Baoding

Medical workers were attacked and an ambulance overturned as villagers in Shuiquangou, northern China reacted to a rumour that their local clinic was to be turned a hospital for treating Sars patients. More than 160 police were called in to suppress the riot

China has promised full co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) after the country's early attempts to hide the epidemic were exposed. But, despite a propaganda campaign calling for greater transparency, many officials continue to attempt cover-ups.

The 'mysterious' respiratory disease had surfaced in November in China and was spreading, quite rapidly. Eventually it was admitted that reported probable cases of Sars should be counted from November 2002 to July 11th 2003. There were over 8000 cases reported and over 800 deaths worldwide.

More **communication** with those closest to the situation i.e. the people themselves not just the officials may have benefited the Sars episode.

This applies to all situations and in particular to planning issues. Officials often make decisions without consideration given to the effect on people's quality of life

That is the essence of this sequel

The original booklet "Summary of The Long Fight to save Barningham High Moor" is the account of the campaign to protect a cherished landscape from the proposed development of the then largest wind power station in England. For anyone who is unaware of the events a full account is given at www.wind-farm.co.uk

What title would best then cover the sequel?

At present I cannot decide so will list a few possibilities

Not many people know this (Apologies to Michael Caine)

Barningham Revisited (Think with a maiden name of Howard I could be allowed that)

KGB Keep a Green Balance (Suitable since good planning is about balance and there are so many planning applications on green issues)

Wind and The Willows. (Seems a possibility with Wind Energy and Coppicing part of the Renewables scenario)

Education Education Education (Educated decisions can only be made by looking at both sides of the argument, something developers do not appear to do) Furthermore there should be no misleading information or selected statistics

Whistle down The Wind (Poetic Licence?)

Breeze to Twister (Although it could convey the rapid increase in successful planning applications for wind energy from 1999, it may lend itself to misinterpretations.

Therefore I will definitely not use that.)

Hopefully when I have finished the booklet or even as it progresses it will be more apparent as to which, if any of these, I should choose. Though content is all-important the title needs to catch people's attention. Perhaps I should just call it Beckham's Balance since although he has no connection whatsoever it would catch people's attention! Yet it is about finding a balance, as is all good planning.

Alternatively I could request that British Wind Energy allow me to use a phrase from their website

"Hug a Turbine Tony. It's a vote winner"

Chapter 2

BARNINGHAM REVISITED

The comments regarding a title may sound flippant in an account that is in fact extremely serious, **but that is certainly not the intention.** The resulting personal pressure of the long hard and continuing fight to save our landscapes necessitates such occasional deviations to preserve my sanity. As a representative for the community and a non governmental organisation Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) (soon to become Campaign to Protect Rural England) **I am not alone in my belief that wild places are crucially important and need protection from intrusive development**

. There can be no ‘cure’ for despoiled landscapes. Once gone they are gone forever taking away not only the beauty, which will be in the eye of the beholder, but those intangible qualities, peace and tranquillity valued only by those who experience and understand them. They provide something money cannot buy.

Some details are given at the end of the chapter and a full account can be found on my website www.wind-farm.co.uk This is a private site despite its name but I was not at that time familiar with terms such as org, com, net etc or the implications of these in the domain name. The importance of including ‘Wind farm’ in the site name was however all too obvious.

The long hard fought battle was to save a beautiful landscape from an inappropriate and damaging development, in this a Wind Power Station. At that time it would have been the largest in England, a departure from the development plan and situated on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty it was perhaps the most sensitive site to be targeted at that time. In addition the turbines proposed for Barmingham were at 177ft much higher in relation to anything that then existed in such areas.

How could such a landscape be targeted for such a damaging proposal?

It was a direct consequence of the Non Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO) This system resulted in the commercial exploitation of wind energy in some of the wildest parts of the country. For anyone who is not familiar with the Government’s Non Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO) or its equivalent in Scotland, the Scottish Renewables Obligation, (SRO) a brief explanation follows. (Quite frankly there is no reason even to be aware of them let alone familiar unless you have been involved in projects funded by these contracts).

The contracts from DTI under NFFO provided a guaranteed market for the electricity generated. Contracts were awarded on a basis of competitive price tender so those which could produce the cheapest electricity would be most likely to be successful' For wind generated electricity, the direct consequence meant targeting the areas of highest wind speed which often coincided with our valued landscapes. Lilli Matson, CPRE's Head of Natural Resources, commented (Times 19/01/99) that the problem was the NFFO and the inherent conflicts in a system where 'subsidies were awarded to the cheapest project with no reference made to their environmental impact'

At my request Lilli recorded a tape of CPRE's remit on renewable energy. This was used throughout the Barningham campaign i.e. 'supportive of renewables but not when they had an impact on the landscape' **We were never anti wind energy and always campaigned as a landscape protection group. It is time that National Wind Power (NWP) The British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) and others acknowledged the fact, stopped their wishful thinking and respected the truth**

Furthermore planning permission was not an integral part of the NFFO contract and applications had to go through the normal planning process. I believe developers were advised not to apply for a contract unless they thought they were likely to be successful in the planning application. Planning Policy Guidance Note 22 (PPG22) is the key note policy document on renewables. Dating back to 1993 it is to be replaced by Policy Planning Statement (PPS) expected this year. There is considerable pressure to see the requirements in PPG22 relaxed to encourage more renewables. CPRE will strongly resist attempts to weaken countryside protection or community involvement and believe a priority of the new PPS should be to encourage energy efficiency and energy conservation in new developments.

The developers have always seemed to expect a presumption in favour of wind. 'No' did not appear to be part of their vocabulary!

Much of the following account stems from this reluctance to accept any refusal and subsequent efforts to weaken the planning system. The account does not have the structure that a professional could give but it is the truth, a whiter than white version. I dedicate it to my husband who could not tell a lie to save his life, an endangered species in this day and age.

During the quarantine I have had plenty of time to reflect on our much-loved countryside and all it represents, of John Muir, born in Dunbar, who pioneered The National Parks movement in North America and has seen the protection of wild places worldwide.

Our countryside is at present under more pressure than ever before. Much of this stems from government's predicted rapid expansion of wind energy in order to meet their targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Now there is no longer a quandary in respect of a title. There can be only one as the 10 Day quarantine, has been instrumental in forcing the issue. Hence the following title;

Force 10.

Abstracts from www.wind-farm.co.uk

Summary of The Long Fight To Save Barningham High Moor

Proposal for the then largest wind farm in England.

1996 Planning application for 30 x 500 kw wind turbines refused

1997 Planning application for 25 x 600 kw wind turbines refused

1998 Public Inquiry held over a period of two weeks in June.

The Barningham High Moor Coalition (BHMC) based on the local group, Barningham High Moor Conservation Group (BHMCG) was the principal third party objector. This was funded mainly by The Ramblers Association Nationally.

1998 November In what has been described as a landmark decision, A government appointed Planning Inspector, Mr David Lavender, dismissed the appeal by National Wind Power.

The Inspector stated *'He found nothing to persuade him that the desirability of exploiting a clean renewable energy source at this prominent skyline outweighed other important national policy considerations, which include avoiding damage to attractive areas of landscape.'*

National Wind Power's response was to intimate they would have to review the whole of their future operations unless the decision was reversed. This could be done only in the High Court. Teesdale District Council chose not to take an active part in proceedings at this stage due I believe to financial restraints.

NWP resisted for several months the request to agree to the Coalition's participation at the Hearing scheduled for October 1999 in London. Eventually NWP's solicitors grudgingly conceded that I be allowed to be joined to the proceedings as the representative of the BHMC

NWP failed in its attempt to persuade The High Court to overturn the decision, rejecting all four grounds of NWP's appeal-on energy, procedural, landscape and archaeological grounds. (The High Court action was funded from voluntary sources, mainly CPRE branches throughout the country).

1999 December BHMCG in answer to their request, received from GONE confirmation that NWP would not be appealing against the judgement dated 29th October 1999.

Apparently NWP were not **obliged** to inform us of their decision. However after all the stress the group had experienced it would have been polite to do so. We were grateful to Gone who had remained helpful throughout, though of necessity impartial.

Chapter 3

HIGH MOOR TO HIGH COURT

It is essential to point out that though accurate in content there are omissions in the original booklet. These are due solely to the fact that the 'omissions' are not covered by the term 'material planning considerations' and therefore would have had no relevance to the planning application. Yet they are many and varied and it is essential the wider public is made aware of them. Any encroachment on one's quality of life by a development should in my opinion be considered as a material planning consideration. Each application for a wind power stations is site specific and my experience relates solely to the Barningham proposal. However I have read there have been similar situation elsewhere, in respect of procedures.

A quick reminder that our remit as The Birmingham High Moor Conservation Group was to protect this unrenewable landscape from damaging development. We along with the many organisations /groups who supported us were supportive of renewable energy schemes where they did not impact on the landscape. This attitude is either not understood by developers or not acceptable to them. **Most see it as oxymoronic Anyone objecting to their proposals is promptly labelled Nimby, (Not in my back yard) Nimbyism is now widely used in a derogatory sense as developers claim these people are obstructing the government's commitment to reducing CO2 emissions.**

I am a so called Nimby and proud of it since it is the 'Nimbies' who really have an intimate knowledge of an area and are able to provide evidence for their defence.. Walking, cycling, skiing, flying in a light aircraft, sleeping out under the stars we knew the moor in all its glory and at all times of the year. The most appropriate definition of Nimby is the following one, given by The National Trust in their booklet entitled "A Call for the Wild"

"It is too easy to dismiss resistance to new technologies as NIMBY-ism; that is unfair to those who believe the quality and distinctiveness of their own environment or the places they love are worth defending for themselves, for others and for future generations"

Sustainability is another current buzz word so I would like to use a statement from the same booklet. "However far from being a NIMBY outlook these objections relate to legitimate aspects of sustainable development which would have been violated by the schemes." The schemes referred to were a proposed wood-fuelled power station at Newbridge on Wye and the proposed Wind Farm on Barningham High Moor. . The full document can be read on line at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/environment

It is why we cry out in defence of our landscapes .It is in fact our heritage. That is why we were willing (as a last resort) to sell our house in order to fund the High Court challenge had the money we collected from voluntary sources proved insufficient.

Cocker Hill, High Moor, Barningham High Moor were all used to describe the location but the majority of the turbines (18 out of 25) were on Hope Moor. I mention this since the only way to ensure the exact location, so essential in assessing environmental impact, is a grid reference.

It seems appropriate to mention that the land owner who would have had 18 turbines on his land in Arkengarthdale was represented at all times by an agent and I do not believe made any comments to the press . The wild beauty of the area is well known to the locals but visitors never cease to admire the wild and striking beauty of the high moors Since The Arkle Riding Centre opened in 2001 it has been possible to ride there so providing yet another facet to people's enjoyment of the area, already very popular with hikers, cyclists and those who are touring the area on motorcycle or by car.

I hope you can find time to visit Teesdale, Arkengarthdale and The Yorkshire Dales National Park. Then you will understand why we defended the High Moor landscape. You will have the opportunity to experience first hand those intangible qualities so hard to define but so wonderful to experience and once experienced so impossible to forget. Others will have their favourite areas but wherever these may be one realises there is far more to landscape than just the visual aspect.

Two refusals by full council and dismissal at the public inquiry were still not enough for National Wind Power who then intimated they would have to review the whole of their future operations unless the decision was overturned. **They threatened to stop building turbines in the UK.**

The decision could be overturned only in the High Court.

For many months National Wind Power resisted the Coalition's solicitor's request to agree to the Coalition's participation in the preparation for the hearing and the hearing itself. That did not seem an appropriate stance in a public proceeding of this nature.

In his judgement the Deputy High Court judge, Mr Christopher Lockhart -Mummery QC rejected all NWP's grounds of appeal –on energy, procedural, landscape and archaeological issues, but granted them leave to appeal further if they so wished. They did not..

Abstracts from the subsequent news release from the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) 29.10.99 and the press release in response from the Barningham High Moor Coalition follow at the end of the chapter.

Further Comments re Barningham emphasised how important this application had been for the Wind Industry . The future of wind power development was uncertain. What would happen next? It seemed the Industry was to make a determined effort to weaken the planning system.

(*Independent on Sunday 6/12/1008*

Keith Henry, chief executive of National power has written to John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, saying his firm which owns Britain's* biggest wind power company may have to pull out. Since 1993 planners have refused 16 out of 18 wind farm applications. Last month Mr Prescott backed a planning decision to stop what would have been Britain's largest windfarm, near Barningham, Co Durham.

Windpower Monthly Dec 1998)

Reflecting the mood of crisis, NWP's* **Peter Musgrove** argued that if the planning inquiry inspectors decision not to give planning permission to NWP'S project at High Moor in County Durham was not legally challenged '*then we and others might as well quit developing wind farms in he UK*'

The Times 9/1/99

"Since 1994, planners and inquiry Inspectors have been giving progressively less weight to the clean energy benefits of wind farms and progressively more to their negative and subjective assessment of visual impact " said **Dr Peter Musgrove** from NWP

Windpower monthly September 1998

A Planning Victim tells his tale

As a result of planning delays and siting permit refusals David Williams of Cambrian Engineering saw his home market slipping away. He wrote to the Welsh press to John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, to Energy Minister, John Battle and to Peter Hain, Under Secretary for Wales. **This same David Williams appears to be a member of the Renewables Advisory Board .**** He called for a mechanism that obliges planners to accept a proportion of wind energy developments in their local authority areas.

Alan Moore, Managing Director of NWP not only wrote but acted. References to his actions are to be found throughout this sequel. **Enough now to say he is the new Chairman of BWEA and a member of the Renewables Advisory Board.****

***National Wind Power**, Yorkshire Electricity and Regenesys are owned by the npower offshoot, Innogy, itself taken over last year by the German utility RWE

****Details of all board members can be found in Chapter10**

Press releases from BWEA and BHMC after the High Court judgement

Note

NWP made reference to the common land decision. I am aware that a local landowner had spent several thousand pounds fighting that issue but after the Public Inquiry felt he could not afford to continue. As we did not take part in that issue I concentrate on the issue we were involved with, refusal to give planning consent under the Town and Country Planning Act,

Abstract from The BWEA website www.bwea.com on October 29th 1999
The complete article can be read on the web site.

High Moor Wind Farm / High Court Challenge by National Wind Power

NWP is disappointed that the High Court has not quashed the decision to refuse planning consent, but given the limited scope for intervention by the High Court NWP is not surprised by this decision.

The High Court was not able to address the planning merits of the proposed wind farm but could only examine the legal validity of the decision making process.

Abstract from The Barningham High Moor Coalition News Release

12 December 1999

Geoff Sinclair Coalition Agent.

National Wind Power's predictable damage limitation exercise

NWP is now at pains to tell the world that its crushing defeat in the high court came as no surprise. One wonders why in that case the company poured some £60000 in court and related costs alone into its final action and attempted to frustrate the Coalition's further legitimate roll in bringing about this misconceived proposal. One also wonders why, if the scope for intervention by The High court was as limited as it is now portrayed by the company, it announced in an aggrieved and almost threatening terms that unless the decision were to be overturned "we and others might as well quit developing wind farms in the UK"

I have in later chapters recorded several events which show that a determine effort was then made to weaken the planning system and to find ways to revive the Industry.

Chapter 4

MIGHT OVER MATTER

At the outset the response to an innocent question* put to a local councillor served to confirm our suspicions that The Barningham Wind Farm proposal had a very high profile. A high profile anywhere but locally it seemed! Developers will claim it was advertised in accordance with correct procedures. Even if it were then those procedures were insufficient for the proposal. A departure from the development plan, the then largest wind power station in England on the fringe of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North Pennines Area of Natural Beauty. It was I believe the most sensitive area to have been targeted at that time.

Let me recount several events, which caused so much concern but are not considered planning issues. Surely if people are to become more involved in decision making, as the Government has promised but not enthused, it is now time to consider if material planning considerations, should be reviewed. It seems the higher the profile the more we are at risk from incidents, some quite bizarre but which are not considered as material planning considerations.

*The question posed was simply to ask how many residents there were in Teesdale

- The resulting comments were in my opinion as unacceptable as they were unbelievable and reminded me of the following quotation “A democracy is as good as the dictator who runs it ” The councillor told me there was no use fighting as it was going ahead. “It is government policy and you can’t stop it”.

This was before the council meeting was held to debate the issue!!

- **Although living close to the proposed area at the time and familiar with all it had to offer we were not consulted. A developer told me later that our intimate knowledge of the area was probably the reason!**

These attitudes do not sit well with Government policy to involve people in decisions affecting their quality of life. A local resident well informed and highly respected spent a long time in discussion with the councillor but to no avail. I include part of the letter from that resident to the Inspector and which I was given leave to use it at any time.

“The economic arguments against this intrusion are familiar to experts but are not apparent to many well-intentioned activists who favour renewable energy at any price. This enthusiastic minority, some with positions on regional and district planning committees, are prepared to accept disfigurement of the grand landscape in and around Teesdale and Arkengarthdale”

Responding to one of many letters in the local newspaper and written by the developers I received a letter by special post requesting we either told them where my information came from or stopped using it. We did neither since I had written and photographic evidence in support. It was fact not opinion being sourced from Germany and Denmark. This was possible since my husband spoke some German and the Danish contact spoke good English. Some of the letters are copied in Appendix A

One of the landowners wrote to me suggesting I withdrew the objection. He also suggested I change the name of our local group from Barningham to Hope Moor. Again we did neither and explained the developers had always referred to the location of the development as High Moor or Barningham. It did bring to our attention that the name of the proposed development was not so important as its grid reference. Names given to some potential wind energy sites can be very misleading and I make no apologies for reiterating that only a grid reference will give the exact location.

The letter of objection on behalf of the local group disappeared from the council office but I had proof of its existence having sent copies to two local MP's. This I did erring on the side of caution remembering that the councillor had told me it was going ahead and we could not stop it.



Letters from officials connected with the Industry namely, Nick Goodall Chief Executive of BWEA and David Milborrow now BWEA Vice Chairman, writing to our local papers convinced us that the outcome of this application was of great importance to them.. Regular reports on Barningham in Windpower Monthly confirmed this and are included at the end of this chapter

Windpower Monthly describes itself as: A uniquely independent information source on the world's fastest growing renewable. With a global network of correspondents and offices in Europe and the United States, no other publication offers the same depth and breadth of global news reporting in this specialised field of power production.

After plotting all the successful NFFO contracts (between 70 and 80) on a map of the North East, some in AONB'S others on the edge of National Parks. it seemed inevitable should Barningham in its sensitive location, gain planning permission the rest would follow. We termed it 'Domino'. Although Parish Councils in the locality were contacted, no reply seemed to be construed as no objection. This is something I have raised with Teesdale Council and suggested that no reply to any planning application should be considered as just that.

Barningham was from the start overshadowed by Rookhope, situated within the North Pennines AONB, at that time proposed to be the biggest wind farm in Europe. Both CPRE Nationally and Countryside Commission were committed to opposing it as were Derwentside Friends of The Earth (FOE)

Ironically the Barningham site is in an area, which according to the then Regional Officer for the Countryside Commission should have been retained within the AONB. All nine local authorities had submitted in 1975 a map showing the area they jointly considered ought to have AONB designation. However adjustments were made in 1985 at a public local inquiry which moved the AONB boundary from the County boundary at Barningham Moor to the west side of the Stang forest, a decision not approved by the Countryside Commission,

- Small exhibitions were held in two village Halls and such was the scale of public awareness that a family living next to one of the village hall was unaware of the exhibition until the display boards were being carried in. Parish meetings were held in the parishes of Newsham and Barningham, though not the areas which would be most affected by the proposal either during or after construction.
- Allegedly a route to the site via Birmingham was mooted and then dismissed. Whether this is true or not it would have been a more direct route and possibly provided easier access than the one chosen i.e. The main road from Teesdale to Arkengarthdale, crossing Rutherford Bridge (listed) and with a sharp bends and steep gradient near the top of the Stang Road A letter to The Inspector from a resident who lives on this road expressed his concerns and pointed out that **in his 10 years there Hope & Scargill parish had had no meetings.**
- The following extract from a letter on behalf of the owners of the Scargill estate, in close proximity to the proposed windfarm expresses their concerns re local consultations. **Much of the mixed woodland on the estate is within an SSSI**
-

“The submission made by National Wind Power considers local consultation and concludes that the villagers who failed to take part in the village vote in 1996 are unconcerned by the planning application. It can be argued that those villagers did not believe that such a proposal would be supported and were relying on their elected representatives to dispose of the problem for them”

During the public inquiry NWP applied for planning permission to make temporary alterations to the bridge, essential if the turbines were to successfully negotiate it. This we BHMCG considered a premature application and that it should not be considered till after the inquiry result.. Barnnigham High Moor Conservation Group sent a letter to the council and individual copies to each council member in order that they had time to consider the situation fully .It seemed totally inappropriate to make this application during the Public Inquiry as the alteration to the listed bridge would not be necessary if planning for the Wind Power Station was refused.

At the South Development Control Committee of Teesdale District Council **the chairman ‘drove’ the meeting. He referred to Ramblers as noisy people in coloured anoraks who ran about the moors shouting. He then passed around photographs of How Tallon, a (Scheduled Ancient Monument) SAM describing it as a load of old stones.**

To add insult to injury the chairman raised his hand saying he was for the turbines and asking who was with him. A vote of 8 to 7 in favour was recorded but at the full council meeting the recorded vote was 13 to10 against the proposal

A letter of complaint about the procedure at The South Development Control Committee was sent to the Council’s Chief Executive by a member of the public. The reply stated there could be no comment as he was not present but that there was often frivolity at these meetings. A further written complaint was made to GONE (the Government Office for the North East)

Unfortunately Teesdale District Council did not then allow Public speaking at Council meetings. Eventually public speaking, limited to one speaker and up to 5 minutes was allowed. On March 5th 2003 the council voted not to allow public speaking on matters determined by County Council and where Teesdale District Council council is a consultee. (Teesdale District Council were the determining Authority on the Barningham proposal with Durham County Council as consultee.)

One councillor termed the decision as a move to dictatorship.

It certainly does not support Stephen Byers in his speech on the Planning Green Paper “The system will give communities the right to express their views.”

Following the incredible behaviour at the South Development Control Committee meeting, the Barningham High Moor Conservation Group (BHMC) requested and was given a different chairman for the full meeting

Nevertheless the chairman from the south development control committee meeting spoke at the full council meeting for much longer than the normal allotted time of 3 minutes.

Much to the amazement of the public present he then proceeded to make throat cutting gestures as another councillor spoke against the proposal and making his points well within the allotted time. This councillor had previously been telephoned on behalf of the developers and told they were **contacting only the intelligent ones.**

This particular councillor had asked at the South development control meeting why not wait until the offshore technology was available since he had understood from the telephone conversation that it could take only 5 years. He then received a letter saying there had been some misunderstanding and it would take nearer 25 years .

Blyth offshore was commissioned in 2000 about 3 years later having secured one of the two offshore wind farm contracts awarded in 1998 under the non fossil fuel Obligation (NFFO)

The follow up letter to the telephone conversation may be read at the end of this chapter

The full council 13 to 10 vote against the proposal was considered a narrow margin by the developers yet the 8 to 7 in favour by only part of the council has been widely referred to as showing support for the Wind Power Station!

References to Barningham on various websites including www.dti.gov.uk state FOE (Friends of the Earth) thought it was a suitable site but no mention was made of the many organisations that eventually opposed it. These included; Teesdale District Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Durham CPRE, Open Spaces Society (OSS). Youth Hostels Association (YHA), Council for National Parks, Ramblers' Association English Heritage, Countryside Commission (Now Countryside Agency)

The overall cost to NWP was reported to be about £500 000 The costs to Barningham High Moor Coalition, based on the local action group, was approximately £20000 and was funded from voluntary sources, mainly CPRE and the Rambler's Association.

The **might** of NWP, and others, with considerable funds available allows them to bring forward further planning applications throughout the UK whilst local authorities and ordinary people struggle to find resources and funds should they wish to make objections.

We were beginning to see the financial implications for developers plus the effect on the whole direction of wind power policy could be dependent on the Barningham decision.

Reports on Barningham High Moor Wind farm Proposal from Windpower monthly
Global news reports www.wpm.co.nz abstracts and/or headlines

1. **April, 2001** : Government eases deadlock

The site permitting deadlock which has trapped around 100 wind and other renewable projects in Britain's troublesome planning system is to be eased. The government has decided to allow developers to transfer projects with power purchase contracts won under the Non Fossil Fuel Obligation from sites that failed to secure consents to alternative locations. Until now, terms have prevented such negotiations.

2. **March, 2000** : Planning hurdles defeat industry -- A bad year, but some light

The new millennium began on a decidedly more optimistic note for the UK wind industry than might at first be assumed, given the country's dismal installation rate last year. Just five wind projects totalling 20 MW were built. Yet out of power purchase contracts for **wind** totalling over 2400 MW from the past three rounds of the Non Fossil Fuel Obligation and the Scottish Renewables Obligation, just over 200 MW has so far been developed or is under construction. The lucky few that reached commissioning in 1999 are mostly small in scale.

3. **December, 1999** : Legal planning defeat for **wind** in north east England

4. **February, 1999** : Dismal year in the UK as planning infrastructure fails

A mere 14 MW of new wind capacity was installed in the UK in 1998 -- a year that turned out to be the worst the industry has known since the beginnings of commercial **wind** energy in Britain. This market status report examines the projects that did get built in 1998, what's in the pipeline, why the UK planning system is to blame.

5. **February, 1999** : NWP correction

6. **January, 1999** : Big player may pull out of wind

7. **December, 1998** : High court appeal for Durham project

8. **September, 1997** : High Moor wind farm rejected again

9. **May, 1997** : NWP lodges new **High Moor** application

10. **November, 1996** : NWP's **High Moor** plans rejected

UK: Positive outcome to planning rejection (1998) details restricted to members only.

THE ENERGY WORKSHOP

August 3, 1997

HIGH MOOR WINDFARM

Dear Councillor Abrahams

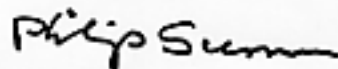
Further to our telephone conversation, I attended the Planning Committee South meeting and enjoyed the vigorous debate on the proposed windfarm.

At the meeting, you mentioned off-shore developments and quoted a consultant as predicting a five year lead time. I think that you may have misheard me. I was talking about *twenty five* years hence when the planning permission had expired and offshore technology had developed sufficiently to site a replacement scheme off-shore if so desired at that time.

I enclose a DTI fact sheet on off-shore wind farms which anticipates a ten to twenty year major development programme will be necessary before significant deployment of wind turbines off-shore becomes possible.

My apologies for the misunderstanding.

Yours sincerely



Philip Surman

copies Mr Ken Hughes
Councillor Phil Hughes

Chapter 5

GO-NE WITH THE WIND

In June 1999 an invited seminar was held at Durham Cricket Club, Chester Le Street but the game was definitely not cricket.

Hosted by One North East (ONE) in association with Government Office for The North East (Gone) and British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) .It was entitled Wind Energy and Planning. Meeting The Challenge

The aim was said to be to constructively discuss the planning system surrounding the development of wind energy

The speakers were

D Still Chairman of the **BWEA** and Managing Director of Border Wind. (Amec Wind) Now seconded to DTI as a member of the Renewables Advisory Board.

Godfrey Bevan from **DTI**

Christopher Bowden from **DETR**

Marcus Trinnick of Bond Pearce. He has many years experience with wind energy projects. Now a board member of BWEA

Richard Glover. Involved in the planning side of wind farms and the appeals process

Cllr Ian Brown from Northumberland County Council

Tony Woodcock from Castle Morpeth Borough Council, involved in the council's wind energy strategy including areas of search for wind turbines.

Jeremy Worth Head of Planning. **Countryside Agency.**

Adrian Smith of Renew North (TNEI) Managing renewable energy projects in the North East. Instigated Teesdale Renewable Energy challenge. (Chapter 11)

Areas of search for wind turbines were requested by the developers. I pointed out as always that renewable energy is not just wind. Godfrey Bevan (Dti) agreed and suggested some funding be made available for further investigation. It was said that if planning consent could be given for one wind farm, a turbine manufacturing company could be set up in the area. It was reported in the press the following day that "Rookhope" in an (AONB) was the site in question. A later letter from Durham County Council stated that the initiative to bring a turbine manufacturing company to the area had come from National Wind Power. Many saw this event as an attempt to weaken the planning system to favour wind energy development.

Result: Polarisation between Developers and Environmental Groups

The main points from the presentation by Adrian Smith (Renew North)/TNEI *

PROACTIVE PLANNING

- Renewables targets in Regional Planning Guidance
- Targets and strategic policy in Structure Plans
- Technical work leading to site specific plan allocations/areas of search
- Firm proposals in local plans, justified at the plan's public inquiry stage

MECHANISMS FOR PROGRESS

Agree regional and county targets/Discuss site selection criteria/Bring forward possible sites/areas for inclusion in Local Plans

POSSIBLE MODEL FOR A REGIONAL WIND ENERGY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

All local authorities with a significant wind resource

Active developers

Government Office

Facilitating organisations e.g (Renew North)

Chaired by Government Office.

Publish an annual statement to feed into the plan making process and which can be used in planning inquiries and appeals

Developers suggested Government Inspectors were biased against wind energy but GONE refuted this...

The amount of thought and work to produce these ideas in 1999 must not be discredited but they were we thought ideas not as it now seems a blue print for the future.(See emails below)

Elizabeth,

I apologise, my answering machine was unplugged by mistake a while back and I lost alot of messages. The consultants appointed to carry out the Regional Renewable Energy Strategy are The Northern Energy Initiative (TNEI). As a part of their brief, they project led a series of other consultants including the University of Northumbria and PB Power who were appointed to take forward specific elements of the strategy such as landscape assessment, and grid capacity.

The strategy is not yet complete. The outcomes of it will be fed into draft RSS when it is published in June/July. The RE Strategy will also have its own separate consultation during the summer, though timescales for this have not yet been agreed.

I hope this helps, if you need further info, do not hesitate to get in touch

Regards

Caroline

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Mann [mailto:me.mann@virgin.net]

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2003 8:17 PM

To: caroline@rane.gov.uk

Subject: rens reg strategy [No Viruses detected]

Re russ update. I left a message on your answer phone but not having received an answer decided to send this e mail. Who were the consultants used by NEREG for the regional strategy for rens? Where can I access it.? Thank you Elizabeth Mann

From: Elizabeth Mann

To: Oldridge, Caroline

Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2003 11:22 AM

Subject: Re: rens reg strategy

Caroline

Thank you for the info. I would be grateful if you would keep me informed re consultation dates, separate consultation and any /all aspects of landscape assessment/grid capacity. This request is made not only as a member of Regional CPRE but as a community member and in the interest of Education . The latter was my role (Community representative of the Education Committee and Education Consultation forum in Darlington) when I first became involved in RES and RPG for the NE To involve people in decisions which affect their quality of life is Central Government policy, hence my on going concern .

Regards

Elizabeth

Chapter 6

BWEA GAP YEAR

It may be a suitable point to mention that for several months I have not been able to access the British Wind Energy Archives for 1998. During this time apologies for this have been posted on their web site with a notice to say that the 1998 information will be available shortly.* Pertinent since the rapid increase in wind energy, comparative to the relatively small amount previously installed, has taken place from 1999

News, Views and Press Releases 1998

News releases and articles for 1998 are currently being compiled. These will be posted shortly.*

Thank you for your patience!

Selected material from other years can be found by clicking on the year:

[2002](#) [2001](#) [2000](#) [1999](#) [1997](#) [1996](#)

You can see from the extract above news, views and press releases for 1998 are not available. 'Shortly' * has become months, straining anyone's patience.

This is unusual for such a sophisticated and regularly updated website where events are usually posted with such haste. Why then such a long delay and what is it that happened in 1998?* Is it perhaps something that happened which BWEA prefer not to have on their site?.

1998 the year of the Barningham High Moor Public Inquiry! The Inspector, Mr David Lavender recommended in June of that year that the appeal by National Wind Power be dismissed.

1998 was the worst year the industry has known since the beginnings of commercial wind energy in Britain and according to Windpower Monthly Feb 1999 the UK planning system was to blame.

MY GAP YEAR

I do not know what BWEA are trying to achieve by their behaviour or how far they are willing to go.

Letters sent to them and costing me almost a £1000 remain unanswered. This lacks not only professionalism on their part but common courtesy too. Particularly as the spin off from information displayed on their website and I believe CD Rom has caused me such distress, I refer to the last year as my Gap year. That is due to the fact that the resulting incidents meant I would gladly have cancelled that year if it were possible. Letters* sent by my solicitor to BWEA remain ignored causing frustration and anger.

Apart from further investigation in accordance with the Data Protection Act there seems no more I can do except place this information in the Public Domain.

I received numerous and varied e-mails, spread over many weeks
They consisted of :

Nuisance e-mails.

Virus e –mails

Pornographic e –mails

E-mails which I found threatening since they referred to protecting myself and family by purchasing a stun gun.

E-mails with my name and a gov.uk address, containing viruses were sent to my contacts

All efforts to locate the senders have been unsuccessful

I do need to clarify two points:

The first is to point out categorically I am not suggesting that these e- mails were sent by BWEA. However many had WIND FARM or related words in their subject. I think it is fair to assume that somehow information had been disseminated somewhere that suggested I was anti wind power, which I am not and never have been.

The second is to inform those sick people who are responsible for the e-mails and the distress caused that neither my family nor the organisations I am a member of are involved in writing this sequel.

Force 10 is my way of alerting the wider community to certain facts that would otherwise go unrecorded

.

Copies of the letters and the offending page displayed I have chosen to leave until the end of chapter 9 where I feel it more appropriate.

Chapter 7

MY WAY

Why have I chosen this way to address the problems that arose as a result of the Barningham fight and that are so undemocratic they are frightening.

With no other route open having explored all that I am aware of, I have no option but to write this account so this piece of Social History is not forgotten.

May I reiterate that this has been undertaken as an individual, not as a member of any group and totally independent of my family. It is essential I make this point as I do not wish to cause problems for my family or the organisations to which I belong. To object to a Wind Power Station whatever the reason, seems to place one in a vulnerable position with those who wish to promote them. Well intentioned they may be but to favour wind energy at any price seems to show a total lack of understanding in regard to other important national policy considerations. We need this balance, crucial if we are to avoid damage to attractive areas of landscape.

I include abstracts from the following article, Northern Echo March 1st 2003 since it explains so well my motivation.

Drawn to the mountains

A former teacher who, with her late husband, campaigned for the preservation of the countryside, is to tackle her greatest challenge in his memory. John Dean reports.

Her next goal is to tackle Mount Kilimanjaro. The continuing motivation for Elizabeth, is a lifelong love of nature which she shared with her husband Stanley, who died two years ago. Her commitment has also led to her becoming a vociferous campaigner against over-development of the countryside.

"The countryside has always played a large part in my life, and as a child I was taught to respect and to enjoy it. I must admit I took it for granted and never thought it would one day be under threat and that so many organisations would have to fight such a long and difficult battle to protect it."

She recalls: "When I met Stanley, his love for the countryside and his knowledge of what it had to offer became apparent. Not only did he admire the beauty of the moors, rivers, woods and mountains but appreciated more than anyone I have met the physical and spiritual refreshment it provided."

"Whether walking climbing or skiing he was happy in the mountains. He enjoyed driving, flying, walking, but his main passion was for mountains throughout the world and that has stayed with me. "Stanley always said that although he did not own it, he felt the countryside was the greatest gift anyone could give to their children. His philosophy was to respect it, enjoy it and preserve it for future generations."

Elizabeth says: "Stanley's first hill walk after his heart attack was on the moors above Barningham in Teesdale, when I had to carry the rucksack. As he regained his strength, we returned to walking on the Lakeland Fells and then the Cuillins on Skye."

Their experiences the world over had strengthened the couple's belief that man was damaging the landscape through inappropriate development. And, in 1997, they had the chance to make a stand for their beliefs, one which brought back memories of that walk after Stanley's heart attack, on Barningham High Moor. They were appalled when they heard that National Wind Power planned to build a windfarm there, on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They became co-founders of the campaign to stop the development and so protect the landscape

The three-year battle against the 25 wind turbines eventually went to the High Court in October 1999 and, when National Wind Power lost, the company said it would not appeal.

Elizabeth said that the campaign, waged on the grounds that such a beautiful landscape was the wrong place for a windfarm, was an important test case for the rest of the country. She says "Reference has been made to it in many planning issues. It now has a high profile both nationally and internationally."

"It seems fitting that the area we fought to protect should provide a suitable training area."

The latest buzz word is 'sustainability'. The simplest definition I have seen is "to have the best possible life for ourselves without leaving a poorer world for our children. To destroy any landscapes, designated or not but valued by those who live there and visit them, can only leave the world poorer for our children.

We all owe a great debt to John Muir, born in Dunbar in 1838 he emigrated to America in 1849. Later he campaigned to protect Yosemite and other areas that became National Parks. Thus pioneered in North America the National Parks movement has seen the worldwide protection of wild places.

. He became the first person to call for conservation of wild land for its own sake realising not only its natural beauty but the physical and spiritual refreshment it brought.

What would he a Scotsman think of the proposed developments for wind farms seemingly throughout the length and breadth of Scotland.

Chapter 8

EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION

It is in the interest of Education that I transcribed these two articles.

References are made to my website by educational establishments. It has been described as a good clear and accurate site but I am not sure it is fully realised that it was not an anti wind but a landscape protection fight. When contacted by students for information re renewable energy as they compile their dissertations I prefer to have both sides of the argument available so they arrive at a balanced decision. That is education at its best.

- These are two of several recent articles and show clearly both sides being debated. The importance is not in deciding, if anyone, is 'right' but rather to arrive at an educated decision after carefully balancing all the arguments. I have chosen articles related to offshore wind since it is in its infancy and there is much to be discussed and researched. It is hoped to meet less opposition on planning grounds than onshore

BBC You and Yours 2/12/2002

This looks at the government's decision to commission around 20 offshore wind farms by 2005.

Professor Ian Fells, chairman of The New and Renewable Energy Centre (NAREC) in Northumberland is sceptical. To produce 10% of UK electricity from CO2 free sources by 2010 and 20% by 2020 he sees not only as a heroic commitment but also as a formidable task needing massive subsidy. He states it will require 20 machines per week, each 120 metres high, two-thirds the height of the London Eye, to be erected for the next 20 years. He also points out that the grid goes unstable when more than 15% of electricity is generated from wind, something already happening in Denmark.

Other participants are Peter Hostgaard –Jensen, managing director of Elsam, Denmark's biggest electrical generating company, David White from The Institute of Chemical Engineers and Doug Beveridge from the Federation of Fishermen Organisations.

The opinion of Peter Hostgaard Jensen is that the 10 % target for 2010 is realistic if we want to do it. He sees it as a challenging job but one that can be done with political will..

David White sees the range of planning consents as one of the difficulties that need to be overcome. He sees a second as the considerable cost of putting a substantial number of smaller generating units onto a system designed for transferring very large quantities of power. Economics and reliability of supply must be considered. He points out that a long established wind farm in Cornwall has not generated more than 28-32% of its nominal output over that period.. There are he says about 140 occasions per year at least a 5 hour outage and periods of up to 3 days at a time when there is no wind at all.

Doug Beveridge mentions the capital costs of the offshore developments, 30-60% above building a development onshore.

The presenter points out that The Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) a body which advises government say that fish stocks as a whole will not be affected. And government will have to take that advice.

Doug Beveridge points out that often the wind farm developers and the fishing industry are competing for the same space. Originally there was simply an announcement giving the location of the wind farms, often in places where there would be maximum disruption. Now a consultancy with DTI has been set up with the Fishing Industry in the hope of minimising disruption and co existing as best as they can

Peter Hostgaard.-Jensen mentions the question of economy and environment and states that the balance of the electricity grid system is more complicated with an unstable energy producer such as the wind turbine.

David White says that wind has certainly a contribution to make but thinks it would really need to be coupled with something else. He mentions the problem of electricity storage the instability mentioned by Peter Hostgaard –Jensen, the spinning reserves from fossil fuel capacity needed to stabilise the grid to accommodate the wind .

Both this type of discussion and the one that follows will stimulate students to do further research and come to a balanced decision. Openness is the keyword since unaware of any potential problems we can not hope to find solutions.

BBC 4 Nature 13/01/2003

Presented by Mike Cawardine and produced by Sheena Duncan the programme highlights the potential conflict of providing renewable energy from offshore windfarms whilst possibly posing a threat to local wildlife.

Caroline Heaps, marine environmental policy manager for the Crown Estate explains how the developers themselves are contributing to the various research and monitoring programmes so urgently needed.

Developers who pre qualify for a site had to put down a financial deposit. The interest accruing is held in a separate account and funds generic research. This research is administered by a steering group COWRIE (Collaborative offshore wind farm research into the environment.) Cowrie is made up of representatives from a number of organisations .such as English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, Joint Nature conservation Committee (JNCC) RSPB CEFAS DTI and British Wind Energy Association .

Tony Fox tells of the problem facing the Common Skota, black sea ducks, a species he has been studying for years as a senior research biologist at the National Institution in Denmark. Baz Hughes is chair of the biodiversity action plan steering group set up in 1998 and is also head of threatened species at the wildfowl and wetlands trust in Slimbridge. Although the programme is geared to a specific breed there are some general lessons to be learnt.

- There are physical constraints in siting wind farms offshore. This is due partly to the technology available at the present time and the high cost of cabling. As a result the sitings are in relatively shallow water and therefore close to the shore.
- The areas favoured by the wind farm developers are also the prime habitats of skota and other birds.
- We do not have enough information about the possible level of impact.
- There is a catch 22 situation where we need to find out more about the likely impact of offshore wind farms on wild life before it is too late, yet it seems wind farms need to be built to make a proper evaluation! There was to be an opportunity in Denmark for such an evaluation in relation to skota but this was lost in 2001 when the new government decided not to make such a huge commitment to renewable energy in the immediate future.
- Government departments need constant reminding as to what exactly their obligations are to the wild life the proposed offshore sites support.
- There seems no doubt that offshore wind will make a huge contribution to renewable energy throughout western Europe but we must be mindful of the potential conflicts.
- Although developers will hope to erect the turbines in one season this depends on the availability of various barges. Construction may have to be spread over a longer period to eliminate the potential environmental impact and disturbance factor on some species.
- Once offshore wind farms are up and running there is the issue of maintenance. From experience, Tony Fox says the turbines will need two maintenance visits per day and coupled with 3 to 5 breakdowns a year for each turbine means each turbine needs to be for 5 to 7 times per year. With 50 to 70 turbines to maintain this would amount to a daily visit over the year.

It appears that various organisations are being consulted re the offshore wind scenario. However I was surprised to see the 'The Rambler's' listed as a consultee on one development! There are an increasing number of press articles available on offshore wind but the 'face to face' discussions on TV and Radio are invaluable.

There are two issues that I feel are educationally unsound in the way they are presented to the public. These are the claimed reduction in carbon emissions and the number of homes equivalent. This concern I have voiced at many meetings in the interest of education.

Although the following example is taken from the BWEA website they are by no means the only ones who use these statistics in this way. It is almost universal in spite of being in my opinion totally misleading. So often are statistics used as a drunken man uses a lamppost, for support rather than illumination. (Quote by Andrew Long I believe)

In this context reduction of 'x' tonnes of CO₂ means nothing without the overall UK or global emissions. Without some figure with which to make a comparison there is no way students or in fact anyone can realise whether figures given are significant.

The second issue on homes equivalent is I believe almost universal in acceptance. Unless it is pointed out approximately how much each domestic household is allowed per day this statistic too has little relevance. It also needs to be pointed out that it is a figure for an average domestic household and usage in factories, hospitals, schools, shops etc is not taken into account.

BWEA spokesperson said at the 2003 All Energy Conference in Aberdeen that the homes equivalent was an accepted way but I feel it could be clarified as suggested. The way of expressing carbon reductions was however something she felt could be looked at. As yet I have seen no change. It is something government and all organisations should be considering not just BWEA

Bwea website June 2003

UK wind energy at a glance

| Projects | Turbines | Megawatts | Generation | Homes Equivalent | CO ₂ reductions |
|----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 81 | 1009 | 559.8 | 1.47 TWh | 365,000 | 1,270,000 t |

I needed for educational purposes to source some information re the blade failure at Blyth semi-offshore wind farm where the turbines were out of action for several weeks. My e-mail had been returned and there was no information on the web site.

The Aberdeen Conference seemed an excellent chance to confirm what had happened so I was amazed to find the person in charge of offshore developments for Amec did not know, nor did anyone from the Amec stand in the exhibition!

Fortunately I found the Vestas stand and was given the following information by the person responsible for the installation.

Both turbines had been out of action for weeks, one a blade failure and the other with a different problem. All 3 blades needed replacing for 'balance' and the delay was due to the only repair boat being used in Denmark. The failure was consistent with the effects of a lightning strike but they were happy it had 'folded' not broken or splintered.

The following e mail from USA shows clearly my attempts to explain I am not anti-wind.

Elizabeth Mann

Below I have requested the movement of your site to the education links you have a good site and I apologize for the placement of you site please give me a few days to get this accomplished and if you have any other requests please do not hesitate to ask

Respectfully

Bob Link

As per the above e-mail

Mike under the anti wind sites on the links page please remove the following link and place it under education the site is a good site. This site does belong under the education links on the links page not the educator's page

Thanks bob

Bob Link
bob@winergyllc.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis Quaranta [mailto:Dennis@winergyllc.com]

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2003 11:20 AM

To: Bob Link

Subject: FW: BARNINGHAM HIGH MOOR

Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Mann [mailto:me.mann@virgin.net]

Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2003 10:16 AM

To: dennis@winergyllc.com

Subject: BARNINGHAM HIGH MOOR

Importance: High

This was a landscape protection fight NOT Anti Wind and unless you make that clear I request you remove my website from your list. The site is private ,paid for personally with no links to any other To be promoted as landscape protection I do not mind but I object to your present description To describe it as you are is processing wrong information.Thankyou Elizabeth Mann

***References to my website I have found on University websites (including the OU)
NATTA and other wind energy related sites, national and international. If it appears
not to be a landscape protection fight I ask for this to be rectified and responses have
been similar to this one from USA***

Chapter 9

What BWEA does

Extracts from BWEA website.

The list of meetings, publications, responses to government papers etc seems virtually endless and one can only marvel at how much work is done for so many by so few.*

- **In the period October 2001 to September 2002, BWEA**
Participated in 30+ meetings with **Government** and its agencies, including **The Energy White Paper Team**
- **Published ...BWEA23 CD**
- **Responded** to more than a dozen formal consultations, including

The Development of BETTA

PPG22 Revision

- Organised . BWEA23 (427 participants) UK Offshore Wind (269 participants)
- **A private dinner with Energy Minister Brian Wilson for a dozen members**
<http://www.bwea.com/members/info/appaa.html>
- Increased income to over £500,000 for the first time ever
- Online ...261,749 visitors to bwea.com

* We employed three further staff, bringing the complement to seven.

Note. David Still then BWEA chair said at a CPRE meeting in Belford (27/03/00) that they were a business as well as trying to save the planet, the only BWEA member I have heard admit this. He spoke about pending regional targets,

What BWEA does not

In my experience it has failed to behave in the manner one would expect of an organisation claimed to be professional

BWEA did not answer my letter of 9th October 2002
BWEA did not answer my letter of 22nd October 2002
BWEA did not answer my letter of 27th January 2003
BWEA did not answer my letter of 20th February 2003
BWEA did not answer my letter of 11th March 2003

For convenience all letters and a copy of the offending page are to be found at the end of this chapter. They relate to my efforts to have my name along with the associated obnoxious words, removed from the BWEA 23 2001 CD rom.

I hope the letters are self explanatory. Unfortunately having paid almost £1000 for the privilege of being ignored, I can afford no more. Considering I tried a reasonable approach and contacted BWEA to express my concerns and the consequence of their action, I find the lack of response the epitome of rudeness. I maintain they have no right to use my name, in particular wrongly inferring I am anti wind energy. Nor do BWEA have in my mind any right in my mind to disseminate such information as appeared on their website . I have copied the page displayed as part of a power point demonstration at BWEA 23, to over 400 delegates. I have however not displayed the other six names as I do not feel I have any right to do so.

The resulting events make a complete mockery of the quote from BWEA Communications Manager, in The Western Mail 30/09/2002

“Personally I find it disgraceful that people have gone to the press or the police first before contacting BWEA where their concern could have been resolved ”

There is no excuse for displaying such material and even less for ignoring my efforts to resolve the matter in a civilised and professional manner.

We know where you live ...

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Elizabeth Mann
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

(you gave your address at the bottom of your letter)

THE BRITISH
WIND ENERGY

ASSOCIATION

Dear Sir/Madam

The Secretary
British Wind Energy Association
Renewable Energy House
1 Aztec Row
Burners Road
London
N1 0PW

Your Ref:

Our Ref: (L)CNO.ALS.MAN

Date: **9th October 2002**

Direct Line

Direct Fax 0191 204 4310

Email Address n.o'loughlin@wardhadaway.com

We act for Mrs Elizabeth Mann.

Mrs Mann is the founder of the Barningham High Moor Conservation Group and member of the North-East regional group of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

We have viewed your website, on page 25 of which there is a list of names, including that of Mrs Mann, against which appear the words "we know where you live ...".

Our client finds these words distressing and threatening and considers them to be an incitement to persons who might be so disposed, to go to her home for unsolicited and potentially illicit, perhaps violent, purposes.

You are therefore required to remove these words, and our client's name, forthwith from your website and also from any other means you may employ of publicising or disseminating them. Your failure to do so in spite of this warning will be interpreted as the engagement, on your part, in a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of our client, and which you know, or ought to know, amounts to harassment of her, contrary to section 1(1) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. The offence of harassment is punishable in the criminal courts and the tort of the same name can be pursued in the civil courts.

The unauthorised publication by you of our client's name and address on your website constitutes other infringements of our client's rights also; but we will not at this stage detail these, because we apprehend that you did not and do not intend to distress our client or to commit any of the above referred to offences and violations of her rights.

We look forward to your confirmation that our client's name and address, and the above referred to words, have been removed from your website and from any other such means of publicity and/or dissemination; and that there will be no repetition.

Yours faithfully
Ward Hadaway

The Secretary
British Wind Energy Association
Renewable Energy House
1 Aztec Row
Berners Road
London
N1 0PW

Your Ref:

Our Ref: (L)CNO.ALS.MAN

Date: **22nd October 2002**

Direct Line

Direct Fax 0191 204 4310

Email Address n.oloughlin@wardhadaway.com

BY RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear Sir/Madam

We refer to our letter of 9th October to you, and are surprised to have received neither reply to nor acknowledgement of it.

We understand that the obnoxious words still appear on your Association's website. Please ensure that they are removed forthwith. Otherwise the matter will have to go further, through channels which you are likely to find less conducive than correspondence

Yours faithfully
Ward Hadaway

The Secretary
British Wind Energy Association
Renewable Energy House
1Aztec Row
Berners Road
London
N1 0PW

Your Ref:

Our Ref: (L)PDA.CNO.HLA.MAN061.1

Date: **27th January 2003**

Direct Line 0191 204 4279

Direct Fax 0191 204 4310

Email Address peter.ashcroft@wardhadaway.com

Dear Sir/Madam

Our client: Mrs M E Mann

We wrote to you on 9th October 2002 and again on 22nd October 2002 in relation to certain words appearing on your website and found by our client to be both distressing and threatening. Although no response was received to either of those letters, we note that the offending words have been removed from the website, as requested, for which our client is grateful.

Unfortunately, that does not appear to be an end to the problem. We understand that the same distressing and threatening words appear on a CD rom that was distributed to all the delegates who attended the BWEA conference in September 2001. It is likely that your organisation reserved copyright in the content of those CD roms. Accordingly, it is now, we suggest, incumbent on you, by whatever method you deem to be the most appropriate, for you to recover those CD roms and replace them with CD roms that have been purged of the offending words in the same way that your website has been.

We suggest that you explain to the delegates, in a letter requesting the return of the offending CD rom, that part of its content is the subject of an error. If you also provide a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the CD rom with your undertaking to send a replacement, without the objectionable content but identical in every other respect, by return, it is less likely that the request will be either met with a refusal or ignored.

We trust you will deal constructively with this matter as indeed you did in relation to your website and look forward to receiving confirmation that you have taken all reasonable efforts to recover the offending CD roms in order that our client, who continues to find this matter most distressing, can treat it as at an end.

You will appreciate that it is important that no reference is made in any letter or request to recover the offending CD roms that would draw attention to the words causing distress, or indeed pique the curiosity of those who currently possess them.

Our client is not, of course, attempting hereby to stifle genuine debate about the benefits

The Secretary
British Wind Energy Association
Renewable Energy House
1Aztec Row
Berners Road
London
N1 0PW

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Your Ref: | |
| Our Ref: | (L)PDA.CNO.KT.MAN061.1 |
| Date: | 20 February 2003 |
| Direct Line | 0191 204 4279 |
| Direct Fax | 0191 204 4310 |
| Email Address | peter.ashcroft@wardhadaway.com |

or otherwise of onshore wind farming; nor indeed is she opposed to such wind farming per se. She merely requires that some unfortunate words which are very peripheral to that debate but which she finds very distressing be recalled.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Ward Hadaway

Dear Sir/Madam

Our Client: Mrs M E Mann

May we please hear from you in relation to our letter of 27 January 2003 by return.

Yours faithfully

WARD HADAWAY

Ms A Hill
Communications Manager
British Wind Energy Association
Renewable Energy House
1Aztec Row
Berners Road
London
N1 0PW

Your Ref:

Our Ref: (L)PDA.CNO.HLA.MAN061.1

Date: **11 March 2003**

Direct Line 0191 204 4279

Direct Fax 0191 204 4310

Email Address peter.ashcroft@wardhadaway.com

Dear Madam

Our Client: Mrs M E Mann

We enclose copies of our letters dated 9th October 2002, 22nd October 2002, 27th January 2003 and 20th February 2003. To date we have received no response to any of these letters from the Secretary of the British Wind Energy Association.

We note that in the Western Mail article dated Monday 30th September 2002 you are quoted as having said:-

“Personally I find it disgraceful that people have gone to the press or the police first before contacting the BWEA where their concerns could have been resolved.

I represent a professional organisation...”

Our client has attempted to resolve her concerns with the BWEA through our letters to the Secretary but as yet has not even had the courtesy of a response from the BWEA. We consider this is the very least that can be expected of the “professional organisation” that you represent.

We look forward to hearing from you

Encs.

Note Two points I would like to make. 1) The recorded delivery 2) An unrelated communication to the secretary I have seen copied to Alison Hill

Chapter10

THE TANGLED WEB

Renewables Advisory Board

P/2002/695

11 November 2002

NEW RENEWABLES BOARD LEADS WAY TO GREEN FUTURE

Energy Minister Brian Wilson today announced the members of the new Renewables Advisory Board.

The Board will play a significant role in the formation and delivery of Government policy on Renewables. The Board is charged with identifying the key areas that Government needs to tackle and provide workable solutions. Specifically, it will:

- Develop strategies for improving the development and deployment of renewable technologies in the UK; strengthen the UK supply chain and the infrastructure required to underpin the growth of a world class industry;
- Examine and prioritise initiatives aimed at improving the competitiveness of the UK industry;
- Identify new export opportunities and the measures required to ensure UK companies can fully exploit them;
- Make specific recommendations by Summer 2003 for actions to be taken by the industry and Government.

Brian Wilson said:

"As we move towards the publication of our Energy White Paper we must emphasise and exploit the synergies between Government, Industry and Academia. I am confident that the Board will identify how this can be achieved and work towards it."

"The potential prize is huge. World investment in renewables could be as much as \$400 billion by the end of the decade. I am determined that Britain will not be left behind, as we were in the 1980s, when we lost our world lead in wind power to the Danes.

"As PILOT has become the engine of Oil and Gas development, I believe that the Renewables Advisory Board can become the focal centre of the Renewables industry. It will be a forum to discuss problems and provide considered, workable solutions for Government and Industry to implement."

The Renewables Advisory Board held an interim meeting in May of this year and they held their first full meeting today.

Biographical Notes of New Members:

Dr Tariq Ali

Dr. Ali is currently the Research Director of the Imperial College Environment Office, London and recently served as Technical Secretary and member of the Chief Scientific Advisor's Energy Research Review Group on Energy R&D priorities.

Mr Tom Delay

Mr Delay is currently the Chief Executive of the Carbon Trust, which was set up by the Government as a key part of its climate change programme. He was a principal at AT Kearney from 1999 to 2001 and worked at McKinsey & Co. between 1996 and 1998. He also has over 14 years experience in the Oil and Gas industry.

Mr Ken Forrest

Mr Forrest has been involved in the Oil and Gas industry for the past 30 years. At the Offshore Supplies Office he was responsible for coordinating Government and Industry action to strengthen the supply chain to take advantage of opportunities in the domestic and overseas market.

Mr Robert Hastings

Mr Hastings began his career with British Aerospace and has since worked in the power generation sector for a number of companies. He is currently active in areas of imbedded generation, on shore wind and offshore wind.

Dr Jeremy Leggett

Dr Leggett has held lectureships at Imperial College of Science and Technology and is an associate fellow at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute. He was also Scientific Director for Climate Change at Greenpeace International from 1989- 1996. He is currently Chief Executive of Solar Century; a UK based solar electric company, and founding director of the private equity renewable energy fund, Bank Sarasin's New Energies Invest AG.

Mr Robert Leicester

Mr Leicester is responsible for all NEG Micon onshore and offshore turbine sales in the UK & Ireland. He has over 25 years experience in the R&D, electricity and manufacturing sectors on a wide range of renewable energy projects.

Mr Alan Moore

Mr Moore is Managing Director at National Wind Power, a developer, operator and owner of windfarms in the UK. He has managed power stations for National Power and held several different roles in the CEGB.

Mr Ray Noble

Mr Noble was an associate director of Ove Arup and Partners for 28 years in the Building Engineering Group. He has spent over 10 years involved in R&D and projects with Photovoltaics.

Mr John Roberts

Mr Roberts is the Chief Executive at United Utilities Plc. He is a former member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and contributor to the report "Energy - The Changing Climate". He has over 25 years of experience of the electricity industry.

Mr Simon Roberts

Mr Roberts is Chief Executive of the Centre for Sustainable Energy, a charity that specialises in advice, research, education and practical project delivery. He was previously Senior Energy Campaigner at Friends of the Earth from 1989 to 1994 and Commercial Manager at Triodos Bank from 1998 to 2002.

Mr Gordon Shearer

Mr Shearer is responsible for Shell's Wind Business in the UK and Ireland. He has held a number of posts in Shell and has worked in a number of countries, such as Venezuela and Syria.

Dr Brian Lockhart Smith

Dr Smith has been Head of Projects at Scottish and Southern Electricity plc since 1998 and currently the focus is on renewable energy projects, primarily wind and hydro. Between 1996 to 1998, he was Managing Director of Southern Electric Power Generation Ltd and has also held a number of other roles in the energy industry.

Mr David Still

Mr Still has been involved in the renewable energy sector for the past 18 years, initially through the Northumbrian Energy Workshop and subsequently through Border Wind Limited and AMEC Wind. Mr Still is currently chairman of the British Wind Energy Association.

Mr Allan Thomson

Mr Thompson has 12 years experience of R&D on wave, wind and CHP pulsed combustion and 25 years experience of senior level experience on offshore oil and gas and onshore thermal power station construction projects. He is currently Chairman of Wavegen.

Dr Patricia Thornley

Dr Thornley is an engineering consultant with PB Power, who advises investors and lenders on the technical aspects of power generation projects based on advanced thermal technologies and/or renewable energy. She holds a PhD in Energy Research from the University of Ulster.

Mr Dale Vince

Mr Vince is the founder and Managing Director of Ecotricity group, an integrated renewable energy company who operate as developer, generator and supplier of green electricity. He has been involved in the wind industry for over 10 years.

Mr David Williams

Mr Williams manages a specialist manufacturer of towers and foundation support systems for onshore and offshore wind turbines. He has built up the company since the late 70's and since 1997 his company has manufactured and supplied some 400 towers to wind farms all over Europe and the U.S.

Mr David James Williams

Mr Williams was Chairman of EPR ELY and Scotland, the biomass company, from 1998 to 2002. Before that he held various posts with South Wales Electricity plc. He is currently Managing Director of Utility Partners Ltd.

Note: We have yet to appoint one final member*

Public Enquiries: 020-7215 5000

Textphone (for people with hearing impairments): 020-7215 6740

<http://www.dti.gov.uk>

Department of Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0E

The high profile of BWEA members on this independent panel plus the immediate attention drawn to this on the BWEA and Windpower monthly web sites* gave me cause for concern

BWEA website

**DTI: New Renewables Board leads way to green future (11.11.02)*

Energy Minister Brian Wilson has announced the members of the new Renewables Advisory Board, which will play a significant role in the formation and delivery of Government policy on renewables. The Board is charged with identifying the key areas that Government needs to tackle and provide workable solutions. Full details, including appointees (7 are BWEA members), at www.nds.coi.gov.uk

WINDPOWER Monthly website

January, 2003 : [High wind profile on Renewables Advisory Board](http://www.wpm.co.nz)

www.wpm.co.nz

As a result I contacted Dti since I felt there was an imbalance regarding environmental protection. The resulting e-mails follow and were it not such a serious matter one could find them quite amusing.

The main outcome is that no one responsible for landscape applied and that is why no one was appointed. That was hardly a surprise being advertised on the Dti website! John Prescott's department has responsibility for planning policy and are represented on the Board.

**The final member appointed later is Chris Morris, a Director of BWEA and chairman of the world energy council's renewable energy committee.*

RENEWABLES ADVISORY BOARD / Related e-mails

Dear Allan

Further to our telephone conversation last week may I thank you for your time.

I would like to request the information you gave me then in answer to my concerns is sent to me as an e mail.

The information you gave me did go a little way to allaying my fears in respect of decisions the Board are able to make, particularly with its high profile of British Wind Energy members.

Central government policy of sustainability (economic and social regeneration whilst protecting the environment) cannot in my mind be upheld without representatives whose remit is environmental /landscape character protection Central government guidelines on Best Value in Planning is to allow developers to develop and objectors to object. Only then can all issues be debated and an educated decision be made. The Board clearly lacks balance. You pointed out the reason for this is that no one representing areas I have highlighted, applied. Without sight of the advertisement this was not an option!!!

. As you said, "Should any one leave the vacancy will be advertised and applications will be considered " Therefore I await the information you promised to source. in respect of when and where the 'Open Competition' to appoint members to the Board was advertised. Perhaps it may be possible to suggest others for the future in order to reach the wider community.

I look forward to your reply.

Elizabeth Mann (B Sc)
Community member

From: Shan Shantha (ENP)
To: 'me.mann@virgin.net'
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2003 5:50 PM
Subject: FW: Renewables Advisory Board membership

Dear Mrs Mann,

Apologies for the delay in responding to your query. We appointed members for the Renewables Advisory Board through an open competition process last summer. Unfortunately we did not receive any applications from individuals directly involved in measuring the visual impact of renewables and so could not appoint such an individual. Members are, however, appointed on an individual basis and not to represent any particular technology or organisation. As such members have been instructed to look at the wider renewables scene when making recommendations. Members will also not participate in making planning decisions on individual projects and this will rest with the relevant statutory authority.

You can follow the workings of the Board through the DTI website (http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/renewables/policy_obligation/rab/index.shtml) and are more than welcome to offer input into the relevant working groups. I hope this answers your query and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Allan Taylor who will be taking over as secretariat shortly.

Kind regards,
Shantha

*Renewable Energy
Department of Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
Telephone: 020 7215 2648
Fax: 020 7215 2674*

Shantha Shan/Allan Taylor

Thank you for the information you kindly sent.

I am trying to follow the workings of the board through the dti website but there are still problems,namely:

I do not feel this gives the opportunity for participation as a community member, my reason for wishing to be involved , 'on an individual basis not as an organisation or any particular technology' as your remit.
However the open competition process I was unaware of otherwise i would have applied.
please inform me where and when the open competition was advertised?

i have always supported all renewables am fully aware of the need to look at energy efficiency and conservation but am equally aware of the visual impact of renewables.

good planning is about, economic and social regeneration which is not at the expense of the environment. best practice is about allowing developers to develop whilst giving objectors the chance to object.

therefore I wish to put on record that the open competition may not have been advertised sufficiently . this is the only reason you now have an advisory board with so many members of

bwea. to achieve public acceptance of renewables it must be shown that all aspects of their impact are being considered.

regards

Elizabeth Mann

----- Original Message -----

Dear Elizabeth

Apologies but Allan Taylor is out of the office this afternoon. I will however pass on your message, which unfortunately will be too late for your trip to Hexam tomorrow.

Please do email Allan with any concerns - his email address is

allan.taylor@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Sorry I couldn't be more help.

Kind regards

Chris Parker

PS to Iain Todd

DTI

Oil & Gas Industry Development

Atholl House

86-88 Guild Street

Aberdeen

AB11 6AR

Tel: 01224 254091

Elizabeth

I apologise for not replying. I have been out of the office and the country over the last few weeks and have not been able to draft a reply. I am now mobile with laptop access to the office and have picked up your e-mail. I will draft a reply as soon as I return to the office, 14 April.

Regards

Allan Taylor

Renewables UK

Dear Allan

May I respectfully ask you send the information I requested and which you were going to source .This relates to the advertisement for the open competition in respect of the renewables advisory board as discussed in our telephone conversation.

I write as a member of and for the community though I am a member of CPRE, OSS and NATTA.

I will be attending several meetings and conferences shortly and it is imperative I have this information. Openness is all-important particularly in the field of Education
My last e-mail to you follows for your reference.

yours sincerely,
Elizabeth

Dear Allan

Further to our telephone conversation last week may I thank you for your time.

I would like to request the information you gave me then in answer to my concerns is sent to me as an e -mail.

The information you gave me did go a little way to allaying my fears in respect of decisions the Board are able to make, particularly with its high profile of British Wind Energy members.

Central government policy of sustainability (economic and social regeneration whilst protecting the environment) cannot in my mind be upheld without representatives whose remit is environmental /landscape character protection. Central government guidelines on Best Value in Planning is to allow developers to develop and objectors to object. Only then can all issues be debated and an educated decision be made. .The Board clearly lacks balance. You pointed out the reason for this is that no one representing areas I have highlighted, applied.. Without sight of the advertisement this was not an option!!!

. As you said, "Should any one leave the vacancy will be advertised and applications will be considered " Therefore I await the information you promised to source. in respect of when and where the 'Open Competition' to appoint members to the Board was advertised. Perhaps it may be possible to suggest others for the future in order to reach the wider community.

I look forward to your reply.

Elizabeth Mann (B Sc)
Community member

Dear Elizabeth

Thank you for your e-mail of 17 March 2003 regarding appointments to the Renewables Advisory Board.

As I explained in our telephone conversation, the Renewables Advisory Board is subject to the Nolan procedures and the Cabinet Office code. An open process inviting applications was undertaken in the autumn of last year and was publicised through the DTI website. Individual companies and Trade Associations were notified of the advertisement. The application process and method of advertisement was fully in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines.

The 18 individuals suggested for membership represent those candidates that the selection panel felt were necessary for the Board to act effectively given the broad range of interests in the renewables industry. Individuals were considered on their experience and skills not on the organisation they represent. All key technology sectors, bar the solar water heating industry, are represented and the candidates have strong backgrounds in manufacturing, services, R&D and finance. Any future vacancies on the Board will be processed as detailed above.

There are also 11 ex officio members, and they have been drawn from the devolved administrations, DTI, Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, HM Treasury, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Trade Partners UK and the trade union AMICUS AEEU.

Your specific enquiry was in respect of the balance of the Board regarding environmental protection. Responsibility for planning policy rests with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) who are represented on the Board. It is not in the Board's remit to change Government policy but to develop strategies for improving the deployment of renewable technologies in the UK. ODPM is currently producing a revised version of planning policy guidance on renewable energy (PPS 22) and they expect to go out to consultation on the draft in the next few months.

If you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Allan Taylor
Renewables UK

I have already drawn attention not only to the high wind profile on the board but also the attention given to this by BWEA and the global reports in Windpower Monthly, the in house magazine of the Wind Industry.

Their earlier comments in respect of planning for wind energy are all the more relevant now as the Renewables Advisory Board will have such a significant role in the formation and delivery of government policy on renewables. How much influence will they have on planning policy statement 22 (PPS 22)soon to replace planning policy guidance (PPG 22)?

I draw your attention to an extract from Alan Taylor, Renewables UK e mail, March 2003 and which can be read in full on the previous page.. It is not in the Board's remit to change Government policy but to develop strategies for improving the deployment of renewable technologies in the UK. ODPM is currently producing a revised version of planning policy guidance on renewable energy (PPS 22) and they expect to go out to consultation on the draft in the next few months.

In the light of the above and the constant reminders from Academics, (one the Patron of and Energy Policy Advisor to TNEI) that without a sustainable energy policy the lights will go out) I hope the board gets it right. I add a few remarks in relation to board members who from 1998 have trumpeted portability of NFFO contracts and implementation of regional targets. They must be given credit for assisting the legislative change which gives portability to a site specific contracts without the developer losing the benefit of their NFFO contract. Planning permission must be sought at the new site as it was not an integral part of an NFFO contract. I wondered if the portability aspect was legal, obviously it is .

Alan Moore, Managing Director of National Wind power and present chairman of BWEA accompanied 17 MP's and a Member of the House of Lords on a visit to a Danish Wind farm. NWP paid for flights and accommodation. **He states that regional targets will go some way to help alleviate the "not in my back yard attitude."*

Windpower monthly September 1998

A Planning Victim tells his tale

As a result of planning delays and siting permit refusals David Williams of Cambrian Engineering saw his home market slipping away. He wrote to the Welsh press to John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, to Energy Minister, John Battle and to Peter Hain, Under Secretary for Wales He called for a mechanism that obliges planners to accept a proportion of wind energy developments in their local authority areas.

This same David Williams appears to be a member of the Renewables Advisory Board .

Chris Morris the latest member of the Renewables Board is a Director of BWEA and chairman of the world energy council's renewable energy committee

Extract from an article in the Press and Journal July 29/03

Renewables expert representing Western Isles Enterprise(WIE) interests in Arnish Venture.

Mr Morris said: "I am delighted that WIE has put its faith in me to represent its interests in Cambrian. **The wind-energy market, particularly in the UK, is poised for a rapid expansion.** I look forward to being able to contribute to **support Cambrian's and WIE's strategic efforts to capture a substantial proportion of the wind industry's manufacturing requirements for the UK.**

Cambrian Engineering makes wind-turbine towers and foundations for the onshore and offshore renewable energy sector. Based in Bangor in Wales recently opened a facility at the Arnish yard on the outskirts of Stornoway.

The former oil fabrication yard is being redeveloped by WIE and Highland sand Islands Enterprise (HIE) at a cost of £12million, creating a multi -user industrial estate with a particular focus on renewables and aquaculture.

Cambrian has leased the main fabrication workshop for its operations from WIE and HIE and has received £2.6million from WIE to establish the Lewis base. The company is eventually expected to employ around 65 staff at the site. Welcoming Mr Morris to the board, Cambrian Engineering managing director David Williams said: "I am delighted, along with the team at Cambrian, that Mr Morris has agreed to join our board "He brings a multitude of corporate skills and experience along with deep knowledge of the wind industry "WIE and Cambrian's interests are as one in seeking to successfully develop the company further in a sector that is demonstrating exciting growth prospects."

As I said to DTI after names of the Renewables Advisory Board Members were released..?

“Do renewables other than wind have a snowball’s chance in hell of being promoted?

That must be the \$64 dollar question

Though there is another. e.g. Which is the cheapest energy.?

That must be the energy we don’t use. Hence the importance of energy efficiency and energy conservation particularly when considering their contribution to carbon emission savings,

Chapter 3 at 3.5 of The Energy White paper does address this.

We expect that half the emission reductions in our existing Climate Change Programme around 10MtC per annum to 2010 to come from energy efficiency There is more detail at 3.6 on how this can be achieved in domestic business and public sectors to 2020

*On a radio interview a few years ago David Still did not agree with me that energy efficiency and conservation had a large part to play in reducing CO2 emissions
In Belford in March 2000 he mentioned the need for regional targets as and seemed always to refer to Wind rather than all renewables.(Understandable coming from the then Chairman of BWEA)*

*To see Tom Delay listed as a member of the Renewables Board was gratifying
He is quoted as saying*

"The Carbon Trust will be investing for the short-, medium - and longer-term and it will be investing for a carbon return, not just a purely financial return. I'm encouraged by the fact that is a growing awareness in business that cutting greenhouse gas emissions – once thought to be economically costly and a threat to business, is in reality, a huge business opportunity. "

*"However, although the technology is readily available, **Bedzed** is one of only a handful of such schemes across the UK. This is largely because the prevailing building regulations do not set particularly challenging energy efficiency standards, according to Dr David Vincent, the technical director of the Carbon Trust.*

Housebuilders do not build low carbon houses because they don't have to".

**Further information on Bedzed from Guadian Unlimited, Architecture Week 2001
Bedzed ,Sutton UK**

**The UK's first large scale neutral development incorporates a range of environmental features, All homes re south facing and insulated with photovoltaic panels on the roof, which will produce clean electricity
Commissioned by Dickon Robinson**

Green praise for BedZED by [*Nina Jacobs*](#) Sutton Borough Guardian

Dr Caroline Lucas, Green Party member of the European Parliament for south east England, paid a visit to Sutton's first eco-village, the Beddington Zero Energy Development (BedZED), last week. Dr Lucas' trip to the sustainable housing development follows last month's visit by Nicky Gavron, Deputy Mayor for London. After a guided tour, accompanied by Bioregional director Pooran Desai, Dr Lucas praised the efforts of those involved in designing and creating the site. She said: **"What is happening at BedZED is really special. It is a living demonstration of how housing needs can be met with minimal damage to the environment. "It is a model for sustainable housing and I believe local authorities throughout the region should look very closely at following the lead set by BedZED. It is a model of excellence.**

Dr Lucas added BedZED provided a way forward for developing much-needed affordable housing within a mixed community. It also addressed wider issues such as global warming by reducing carbon emissions and incorporating comprehensive recycling.

She added: "Now massive house building programmes are being discussed in the south east, the time is right to look at ideas such as these and use them as a template for large scale projects.

Chapter 11

TEESDALE RENEWABLE ENERGY CHALLENGE (TREC)

An Altener bid with Maximum 50% funding by the E U was submitted in May 2001. Accepted in principle by the Commission in September 2001 the contracts were signed in December of that year, for an initial 18 month programme I understand this is then to be extended

TREC is said to be aiming to put Teesdale on a pathway towards achieving 100% of its energy supply from renewable energy sources. Many fail to see how this can be possible but this account is simply to state the aims and look at the progress to date. There is a burning question within the community, **'Why Teesdale?'** **TNEI who initiated the Altener bid and involved Teesdale, have said that they had strong support from Teesdale District Council otherwise they would not have proceeded. Council's support shows in this chapter as does resident and visitor concern for the potential effect now perceived on the landscape. It appears there has been insufficient contact with the local people many of whom are still unaware of the potential impact or in fact what TREC actually is**

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| The overall budget, in euros, is | 1225400 |
| Teesdale budget | 457000 |
| Kerry budget | 298800 |
| Swedish budget | 156200 |
| Trentino budget | 314000 |

Initially energy efficiency and conservation a wide range of projects using renewables were mooted. These included small wind turbines for schools and village halls. At the outset it was questioned whether it was to be small turbines or with two wind energy developers involved and NFFO contracts 'accessible' was this to be wind power in by the back door asked a member of the community.

Local Agenda 21(LA21) had assured us it **was small scale** and a **range of renewable sources** that were to be considered.

At the **first public meeting in November 2002**, both ideas for biomass and wind had a stormy passage A large wind farm was suggested and 4 areas had been sourced within Teesdale but commercial confidentiality meant the public could not then be told of the locations although identified much earlier by developers.

At present trec goals are defined as 8% electricity from hydro and 32% from wind. Amec and NWP are bringing forward proposals for a significant commercial wind farm within Hamsterley forest. Until a grid reference combined with details of the number and size of turbines is made public neither support for or objections to the proposal can be expected. (Chapter 14 Comments from Alan Moore re greater public participation after the closed bid NFFO system is replaced)

On the 18th of June 2003 a second public meeting was held in Barnard Castle. Only approximately 25 people were present out of a population of around 25000. With the meeting scheduled to start at 5pm this was not surprising. Nevertheless some important factors were highlighted. One was the impact of extra traffic on the narrow country lanes if the local forest and woodland are harvested to make wood pellets for fuel. Another\was the intermittency of wind energy and the back up needed when there was no wind or it was too strong. This point was made very strongly by a Teesdale Councillor.

Issues which gave me, as the CPRE representative, cause for concern are explained in the following letter* sent to Amec Wind and printed in The Teesdale Mercury(9/07/03)

**As a result of the display by Amec wind at the TREC meeting on June 18th in Barnard Castle it could have been construed that CPRE were supporting the proposal for a Wind Power Station in the Hamsterley forest area. I accept there may have been a genuine mistake in the way the material was displayed or the way it was perceived. However I wish on behalf of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) to make the following comments.*

I was pleased to be invited as the CPRE representative to hear about and discuss in June 2001, the Teesdale Alternator programme bid. Although supportive of Teesdale council's attempt to utilise all renewable energy sources and not just wind., it was necessary in line with CPRE remit to point out at the outset, we were not supportive of developments which impact on the landscape.

In conjunction with Government Office North East and part funding from DTI, CPRE's North East Regional Group organised a major conference in September 2002 at Newcastle We hoped to come up with acceptable solutions for the planning of renewables in the region. AMEC,TNEI and local authorities were involved. The outcome was: Landscapes need not be sacrificed in the drive for renewable energy. The government can combat climate change without sacrificing England's best loved landscapes to wind turbines.

February 2003 CPRE issued their campaign briefing on renewable energy. It covers all renewable energy sources policy and planning frameworks. It gives an example of an acceptable onshore wind turbine scheme and quotes The Barningham High Moor proposal as a damaging scheme.*

**:References include ; BWEA, DTER ,DTI.,MAFF Ofgem and Mann S&E (.Summary of the long fight to save Barningham High Moor)*

(No reply from AMEC as yet, (3/08/03)

One very worrying concern is in connection with a survey in which 48 people from the 14000 or so homes in Teesdale were said to be supportive of wind energy. Yet many residents did not receive the leaflets and others received them too late to respond.

Furthermore there is a difference between being supportive of the technology itself and offering support for a large commercial wind farm.

I include an extract from the Trec brochure asking for ideas for projects in Teesdale. Surely this suggests **small scale**.

YOUR IDEAS FOR PROJECTS IN TEESDALE

TREC is already working on feasibility studies into wind, hydro, wood fuel and solar projects. Do you have a renewable energy project idea?

Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge

The people of Teesdale also have a role to play and we want to hear from you. TREC would be interested in enquiries from community groups such as village hall committees, voluntary groups of all kinds, parish councils, schools, small businesses, and groups of residents.

Possible project ideas could include;

- Wood heating using forestry residues for community buildings
- Small wind turbines for schools and village halls
- Solar water heating panels on groups of houses and community buildings
- Small hydro projects generating electricity for local users
- Involvement in shared ownership of a commercial wind energy scheme
- Training programmes in renewables and energy efficiency
- Energy efficiency improvements
- Solar power generated by converting sunlight into electricity
- Incorporating renewable energy into architectural designs for community buildings

TREC can also;

- Provide information or a case study example to help you think through possibilities
- Provide information on funding opportunities for renewable energy installations

To discuss a potential project please contact the following:

Helen Nisbet, Renew North/The Northern Energy Initiative on 0191 233 9319 or email Helen.nisbet@tnei.org.uk

That is why as Cpre I wrote the following letter which was printed in the Darlington

& Stockton Times in February 2002 under the heading “A good example”

To The Editor

20/01/02

Congratulations to Teesdale Council in their attempt to utilise all renewable energy sources not just wind. (Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge). A sparsely populated area such as Teesdale could derive much of its energy from renewable energy sources such as hydro, solar, biomass, photo voltaics and small turbines for on site use.

Much has been said recently about wind energy and the Barningham High Moor proposal but still there is a lot of explanation needed. A turbine with installed capacity of 1000kw has a rated output of approx 300 kw but produces nothing when the wind is too strong or not strong enough. There are places for wind turbines as the proposed Teeside Urban Wind Farm shows.

Renewable energy could increase domestic bills by 5% to 6% (PIU figures)

Since CPRE backed the local group (Barningham High Moor Conservation Group) in their efforts to protect the landscape from inappropriate wind energy development renewable energy seems to be developing in line with CPRE.'s remit.

Competitive bidding for NFFO contracts drove developers to the windiest sites, often wild upland landscapes. The Renewables Obligation now in force allows utilisation of less windy sites and hence gives some protection to our hills.

AONB's now have the same protection as National Parks

Teesdale Local Plan Decisions state that having fought a wind farm development which went to the High Court (where National Wind Power's appeal was dismissed) it is felt that much was learned and there is nowhere in Teesdale AONB where a commercial wind farm could be sited.

The NFFO Flexibility Order will allow the High Moor contract to be relocated elsewhere.

Funding for renewable energy has been improved, something the CPRE has campaigned for for a long time. We must further strengthen our planning protection for the countryside. We must rule out environmentally damaging schemes but follow Teesdale's example of encouraging a wider range of renewable energy projects.

cc to Derek Foster MP

Martin Callanan MEP

- The most effective way to convey the many concerns is I believe to include some recent letters published in the local newspapers I include also notes I made (for CPRE) at the meeting of potentially interested organisations held in January 2002. It now appears those concerns were justified. What we were led to expect is nothing like the proposals coming forward.

Letter to the Editor (*Teesdale Mercury*)

With reference to the personal summary by Dr Ian Consterdine, recorded in the Teesdale Mercury (Nov 20th) and relating to the TREC event.

I regularly visit the area described so aptly on Teesdale Council's website; Perfect for an active holiday or complete relaxation in beautiful unspoiled countryside, a world of waterfalls and wooded valley, of open moors and magnificent skies, spectacular views of the landscape. Merlin, black grouse and alpine flowers are mentioned. It also states that special efforts are made to conserve this, a landscape of national and international importance. Elsewhere it is described as the most beautiful valley in England!

"It is too easy to dismiss resistance to new technologies as NIMBY-ism; . that is unfair to those who believe that the quality and distinctiveness of their own environment or the places they love are worth defending, for themselves, for others and for future generations" National Trust
The Trust accepts the issue of climate change, but points out that the modest effect of wind turbines must be carefully measured against their environmental and social costs. Furthermore it states the countryside is an asset valued by people here and across the world.

Finally I am concerned that apparently several friends in Teesdale did not receive the questionnaire deemed necessary for assessment of energy usage. How valid therefore are the survey results.? Only 48 households supporting wind energy, out of approx 14000, does not justify building wind farms which will impact on the landscape.

Letter submitted 8.2.02. (*Northern Echo*)

Sir,

Your leader 25th January supports renewable power initiatives in Teesdale, saying it could mean no need for overhead power lines. Some kinds of renewable power could help reduce the need for power lines, but wind power can only make the problem worse!

Wind power is necessarily intermittent. The wind turbines fail in low and in high wind conditions. They only deliver about a third of their installed capacity. They cannot replace the continuous power supply we all need.

The powerline infrastructure must cater for when wind power is off as well as when it is on. That needs more infrastructure not less!

Unfortunately wind power has serious limitations. Apart from being intermittent, it needs vast installations to generate a significant output. Very large wind turbines typically have capacity 600 kW. There are super-large ones at 1 MW and, developing for off-shore use, even 2 MW. You need three of them to deliver the capacity of one because of weather variability.

It would take over 5,000 super-large wind turbines to equal the Teesside Power Station capacity of 1845 MW, averaged over time, but they could never do it continuously. Even 50 of these huge machines, much bigger than the largest pylons, would severely degrade Teesdale. And they would add to the need for overhead lines in Teesdale and beyond.

There is scope in Teesdale for other renewables, including hydro and biomass, which could make the area self-supporting. More important, there is developing small-scale generation for local use which will be cheaper than power from the grid - the sort of micro-generator for combined heat and power (CHP) now installed in Durham County Hall. Installed locally in farms, hotels and villages, they could indeed make Teesdale self-sufficient while reducing the need for powerlines.

There are competing strategies of scale: small and distributed or huge and industrial.

If the industrial wind lobby gets its way, Teesdale could be blighted by an inescapable and overbearing army of monstrous machines and powerline wirescape. On the other hand the Teesdale renewable energy challenge might just get it right, without wind.

Letter Oct 2002 (*Teesdale Mercury*)

Sir,

The letter from Ian Moorhouse (Sept 25th) raises serious concerns relating to the potential of windpower to despoil upland scenery. The Barningham High Moor proposal in 97 highlighted just that. He terms windpower a 'politically correct and so-called green technology'

"A Call for the Wild", A National Trust publication (99) funded by the Countryside Agency (the government's own environmental watchdog) stated
"Some developments advocated as green solutions are further damaging wild places rather than enhancing them. It quoted wind turbines as a particular concern, referring to the Barningham proposal.

Amec for Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge (TREC) have sourced four wind sites in Teesdale yet 'commercial confidentiality' prevents residents from knowing these locations until November 13th. Will there be a democratic debate on the issue or will there be a meeting driven by the proponents of windpower with no concern for the landscape? Developers in wind energy have always said that windpower will replace nuclear yet leaflets in Barnard Castle are advertising trips to Sellafield to see Atomopolis.. A family in 2050 living with a plentiful supply of renewable energy.

Ian Fells patron of TNEI (Northern Energy Initiative) who are responsible for implementing TREC, regularly points out that wind is fickle and needs to be backed up by reliable sources.

Finally may I quote from Windpower Monthly leader editorial summer 2002.
"The energy market particularly for renewable energy, is a political beast, under political control. To secure its future the Wind Industry must play politics.

The foreword for the TREC brochure is by Councillor Phill Hughes.

“As chairman of Teesdale District Council, as Chair of sustainability North East and most importantly as a concerned individual I can commend the work done by the partnership that is set out in this document”

13/11/2002 TREC public meeting chaired by Councillor Hughes

What did we expect from trec? Probably energy saving and energy efficiency. Promotion of low energy light bulbs saverflush devices, push button taps, photo voltaic roofing, ecovats to harvest rainwater, pvc free cabling, solar water heating and small on site windturbines. Prevailing building regulations do not set challenging energy efficiency standards on new build. This is something which should be encouraged.

Yet the document refers to the proposed Hamsterley Wind Farm. Now we are told the project could be 31 turbines each approximately 350 ft high and as yet we have not been told the precise location. How can local people support or object if they are not made aware of what is proposed and where? Even the Planning officer was expecting something on a much smaller scale and said this ‘public meeting’ on June 18th was the first he had heard of more than 7 or 8 turbines. Held as usual at 5pm when ordinary mortals eat only about 25 people attended.

Will we hear, “It is government policy and is going ahead?”

Yet it was intimated from the outset that the renewable projects would be small scale.

An article in The Mercury May 21st/2003 reports some incredible behaviour at a council meeting where it is alleged Cllr Hughes appointed himself leader. I include an abstract from that article *but the full story and other information on retirements from Teesdale Council are in Appendix B Five high profile officers elected to take early retirement / voluntary redundancy. One, The Head of Planning, though at times it is said, controversial, will be a great loss. Particularly as I am told he will not be replaced in a department already under pressure to determine applications within a specific timescale. He took a brave and difficult decision and backed by Teesdale District council, defended Teesdale’s countryside in the face of undoubted pressure to be seen as ‘green’ by hosting a wind farm within its boundaries.

****Amid claims of vote rigging and going against the constitution of the council, Coucillor Phil Hughes elected leader in a stormy meeting if the council last week.***

“This is just one man trying to get power, never in 48 years as of attending meetings have I seen such a disgusting sight” said the Father of the Council John Armstrong.

I specifically requested at the outset that CPRE would be invited to TREC meetings once it was open to consultees and not just participants. I was particularly concerned due to the involvement of One North East, though not as a partner, and their strong connections on Teesdale District Council. The Council had apparently given very strong support to the project otherwise TNEI said they would not have come to Teesdale

Now I know my concerns were justified in spite of LA21 (Local Agenda 21) assuring me developments were to be small scale, encompassing all renewables and not wind farms.!!

The following abstracts are from a report* I sent internally to District, Branch and Regional groups. It would now seem my concerns were more than justified. A report was also done re the LA21 Energy Roundtable 22/01/02 at Durham County Hall but to avoid duplicating information I will not include that.

*With no time to take notes the record may not be word perfect but the gist is correct

European Commission Altener Programme 2001 Teesdale Bid

Achieving 100% Renewable Energy Communities

Meeting 3/07/2001 held at Teesdale District Council (TDC) Offices

Adrian Smith of Renew North/TNEI in the chair gave a plausible account of the bid and what it entailed. Only a short time was available for questions and discussion, but the impression was that everything was already cut and dried. Participant profiles had been signed in May 2001 by four partner countries, Sweden, Ireland, Italy and UK (Teesdale)

I queried whether 100% renewable energy was achievable and Adrian Smith said we could give it a different name hence TREC

I reiterated CPRE's policy on renewables, supportive of a wider range of renewable energy projects but ruling out environmentally damaging scheme and that we do not accept it is necessary to weaken the planning system.

Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge TREC

Meeting of Potentially Interested Organisations.

On 1/01/2002 in TDC Offices

Presentations were given incorporating then use of a wider range of renewable energy projects, solar hot water, photovoltaics, biomass, small scale wind at exemplar demonstration buildings.

The presentation by Amec Border Wind was not to my mind convincing of small scale wind and will need careful monitoring

To have two wind energy developers looking for sites in Teesdale is of great concern. It conflicts with the Local Plan and appears to ignore two appeals, both dismissed. One a single turbine, part of the TREC programme, in the AONB and the other the then biggest wind farm in Britain which went to High Court.

*In answer to my question as to whether costs to the consumer will rise as a result of renewable energy Amec said they did not think it would. At the LA21 meeting 22/01/02 I asked NWP this question since all evidence I had seen suggested it would. John Ainslie for NWP said they had done their sums and the increased cost would be about 2 %
Government Performance Innovation unit (PIU) had already quoted 5% to 6%*

It is becoming difficult to separate certain issues such as regional targets/ TREC/TNEI's Energy for a New Century/Chris Blandford study and RPG

Page 22 of the 51 page ALTENER Bid submitted by TNEI reads:

*“Some of the most economic sites for wind development are within protected landscapes in particular the nationally designated North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In the recent past the development of wind power has been a controversial issue within the District this may continue to be the case in the future because of the **government's targets for renewable energy**. During the phase sites will be identified for wind development which meets the local authorities planning criteria.*

*These regional targets have come from “**Energy for a New Century**” an energy strategy for the North East of England. It should be noted that this was produced using Government and European funding, not so far as I am aware, subject to public consultation. The panel Report for the RPG for the NE states at 3.16 that it should not therefore be regarded as an authoritative policy for RPG and development plans.*

It was then I realised the element of De-ja vu. An official from One North East informed me that developers were lobbying to have the planning process changed in order to favour Wind Energy and intended to have an input into RPG in order to achieve their aim. At the preliminary meeting for the examination in Public of the RPG, Energy for a New century surfaced, seeking a high profile. I complained to the panel that I had not heard of it previously and the cost was prohibitive at £45 a copy. Adrian Smith of Renew north/TNEI offered to send a copy to all present and did so !

I feel strongly that although in principle TREC should be an acceptable development I wait and watch to see what it actually entails particularly in relation to the effect on the environment

At the time of the RPG public Examination, Friends of The Earth (FOE) commented on Energy for a New Century's billing 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 (para 5.5) which suggested it must be used with caution. FOE wished to see references to the document as a regional energy strategy, withdrawn.

The answer to concerns was I believe addressed by GONE. Advised by the Steering Group, they commissioned Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) to undertake (July 2000) a stakeholder consultation process to look at the key issues for the development of renewable energy targets in The North East to 2010.

CBA's interim report (June2000) 1.4 Two existing sources of information are drawn upon heavily.

1) The Commercialisation of Renewable Energy in The North East of England.(ETSU for the DTI.Northern Electric, Northumbrian Water)1995

2) Energy for a New Century (ETSU/AEA Technology)

Note at vi Chairman's message.This study was commissioned by TNEI

The Final Report (Oct 2000) is available at www.go-ne.gov.uk

A further reference to the report by Chris Blandford Associates follows in Chapter 14. The reason being that this information is most relevant in a chapter where Alan Moore, Managing Director of National Wind power and present chairman of BWEA accompanied 17 MP's and a Member of the House of Lords on a visit to a Danish Wind farm. NWP paid for flights and accommodation. *He states that regional targets will go some way to help alleviate the "not in my back yard attitude."*

A few extracts from the CBA report I include here

At 2.4.2 there is an error which could be typographical. I pointed out the error and offered a correction to GO-NE in January 2001. I felt I had allowed time for the error to have been noticed and corrected by at least one of the 130 organisations to whom the regional scenarios had been circulated. The error still remains on the 85 page document on the GO-NE website. (July 2003) and I can find no evidence anywhere of a correction. Go-ne confirmed in a letter from J Bonnar that my figures were correct. He has now moved to a different team at GO-NE.

The need to distinguish between 'actual' energy produced and 'potential' installed capacity was raised as a significant issue. **For that reason alone the figures should be correct.** Furthermore the calculation of the number of turbines needed to produce a specific target will thus appear to be less than half the number actually needed should those incorrect figures be used.

The study states (page 20)

Although difficult to measure against precise criteria, the importance of wildness and undeveloped characteristics as a declining 'resource' in the UK is widely acknowledged.

The region contains large areas of significant archaeological and cultural heritage interests, including the internationally important Hadrian's Wall and Durham Cathedral World Heritage sites

Nevertheless a planning application was received in July 2001 for two wind turbines (2 MW) Enormous machines, 118 metres to tip, at Old Quarrington. They would have impacted on the setting of Durham city and views of the Durham Cathedral World Heritage site, less than 6 km away. There was no Environmental Statement and landscape impacts were effectively limited to within 2 km of the site. CPRE raised objections to the application as did Durham City Council. To date the application does not appear to have progressed further.

At 2.7.3 there is a reference to the Barningham Moor application and outcome.

Within the North east wind energy is clearly a special topic of interest given the refusal of the Barningham Moor proposal, the current proposals for a large scheme in the north pennines AONB and the recent proposal for a further large wind farm near Kielder*close to the National Park in Northumberland

An update on Kielder is given in Chapter 12,

I was surprised to see that BWEA's list of Corporate members at 8 Feb 2001 includes Chris Blandford Associates.

Chapter12

KIELDER WINDFARM CAMPAIGN

This is an issue I would like to air as once more it shows how might can be brought to bear in a totally undemocratic manner

Financial Times.com May 3rd 2002

Plans to build one of Britain's biggest wind farms suffered a setback yesterday when a high court judge refused to quash a government decision blocking the project.

Judge backs DTI rejection of Kielder wind farm ..High Court Decision and defence objections threaten efforts to cut greenhouse gases."

BWEA said "The government will have no chance of meeting its target if the MOD (Ministry of Defence) is unchallenged,"

"I have no hesitation in saying the claimants' attitude is unreasonable and absurd." Mr Justice Sullivan said He also accused EcoGen of engaging in 'legalistic bickering

The Newcastle Journal May 3rd 2002

An RAF spokesman said "Spadeadam is a unique resource for the training of operational pilots "

Mr Justice Sullivan rejected the application, criticised the company and ordered EcoGen to pay£4,392 in Government costs. The judge had warned about procedural games in High Court.

The inability to take no for an answer, to attempt to move the goalposts and weaken the planning system reminds me of the Barningham fight. However it is not the MOD which is the problem but MO (modus operandi) on the part of the developers. The following information speaks for itself.

This 'campaign letter' related to the Kielder wind farm proposal came to me by e mail It appeared to be an urgent request to contact Dti and try to persuade them to change the decision to refuse Kielder Wind Farm.

The ‘campaign letter’ and the decision letter, the latter addressed to D Still plus a letter from Adrian Smith of Renew North /TNEI are in Appendix C. The use of ‘must be provided’ in relation to targets for new on-shore wind in Adrian Smith’s letter is worrying. Will TREC be governed by ‘must.’ TNEI is the consultant appointed to carry out the Regional Renewable Energy Strategy to be fed into the draft RSS IN June/July

I do not understand why this decision letter with its request should have been sent to me. However I am pleased someone did as it shows what actually happened as developers pooled their resources and tried to persuade the Dti to change their decision. There was an e-petition form to subscribe to and it states that 300 hits will get a free listing on no 10’s website ! This tactic proved unsuccessful and they then went to Judicial Review.

The previous page shows the end result at the High Court and the comments from the judge.

Kielder is not an area I am familiar with. As I firmly believe one must know the area whether through living there, working there or visiting before supporting or objecting to any development. I pass no comment other than to point out the area is unique due to the nearby Spadeadam Electronic Warfare Tactics Range.(EWTR)

However I am concerned at the events that followed the refusal and would like to draw attention to the following abstracts from the campaign letters and an article from ENS, Environment News Service

Campaign Letters March 2001

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

“The UK MOD are alone in the world in their contention that wind turbines ‘interfere’ with radar-surely with modern computer recognition technology this cannot be the case.”

ENS JULY 2002

Las Vegas Nevada

A \$130 million wind farm planned for land that is part of the Nevada Test site about 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas has been abruptly canceled by a federal agency due to military concerns.

Air Force officials said the whirling turbine blades might interfere with radar signals. They said the interference would impact testing training and tactics development on the nearby Nevada Test and Training Range.

Chapter 13

THE ENERGY WHITE PAPER

Available at www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

This long awaited white paper finally arrived after a stormy passage and leaked information. **As if this was not enough the following comments made by then energy minister Brian Wilson and reported in the West Highland Free Press (25/04/03) make it appear an absolute farce and seemingly without credibility of any kind.)**

Brian Wilson said “Anyone who talks about Scotland generating 40 or 50% of its electricity from renewables, such as wind and wave, but at the same time wants to divorce Scotland from the rest of the UK is kidding the electorate on Scotland could not sustain 20% of generation from renewables-far less 40-50% as an independent state.”

- *“No country can carry such a high proportion of renewables because of their inherent unpredictability.- as Denmark has found with wind and Norway with hydro”*
- *“The cost of carrying electricity from The Western Isles to the mainland and linking it to the National Grid would be totally unsustainable if it had to be borne within Scotland.”*

Page 55 Renewables Timeline 2020 Renewables supply around 20% of UK Electricity.

Page 44 4.5 If we are to achieve a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, we are likely to need renewables by then to be contributing at least 30% to 40% of our electricity generation and possibly more.

I refer to three points only:

The first is the reference on page 18 to the need for the market to handle intermittent generation by using back up capacity when weather conditions reduce or cut off the wave tidal or wind sources

Second is chapter 3, energy efficiency, and which I have already mentioned in connection with the Renewables Advisory Board. (Chapter 10)

The last is to draw attention to page 136

Quantifying the system costs of additional renewables in 2020. This a report by Ilex * to Dti www.dti.gov.uk/energy/developpep/080scar_report_v2_0.pdf

*7.7 to 7.11 explaining why the Danish experience may have few lessons for Great Britain, due to differences in their electricity systems follow for convenience.

Lessons for Great Britain

7.7 The Danish experience may have few lessons for Great Britain. The two electricity systems may not be directly comparable and the 1999 change of policy on renewables came about principally due to a change of political ideology following a general election. The incoming government was keen to move away from the direct subsidies that the previous tariff regime had provided towards a market- based mechanism of tradable green certificates. The decision was not one related specifically to the extent of system costs arising from the large amount of wind generation.

Comparing the Danish and GB electricity systems.

7.8 Although Denmark like the UK has a substantial wind resource relative to its electricity demand there are significant differences between the systems. The Danish system is small. In 2001 power consumption in Denmark was around 35 TWh for a population of 5.4 million. This is approximately 10% of the UK's 334TWh for 60 million inhabitants.

7.9 The Danish system is highly interconnected with 5.6 GW of links to Germany, Norway and Sweden. This is an exceptionally high degree of interconnection for a country with a peak demand of 6GW and provides a valuable balancing tool. net flows on these interconnectors are small because substantial exports (9.2 TWh in 2001) at times of low demand and/or high wind are offset by high volumes of imports (8.6TWh in 2001) at other times. 60% of imports come from Norway and Sweden that have hydro-based systems that can respond at short notice to wind variation.

7.10 Great Britain by contrast is essentially an islanded system linked to the continental markets by a 3GW link to France for a system with a maximum demand of 59Gwin 2001. This link is normally used to import power and only rarely provides a physical energy- balancing function. Even with planned increases in interconnecting capacity the UK will remain an essentially islanded system which constrains options for balancing via international imports or exports. As a consequence the potential for renewable development in the UK may be constrained by the requirement to maintain system stability internally.

7.11 We have not investigated in any detail the charging methods to value the imports and exports on the Danish system, especially those that take place at relatively short notice. It may be the case that if providing balancing and capacity services for the Danish system imposes additional costs on neighbouring systems, those costs will increasingly be passed on to Danish companies and consumers. It is not necessarily the case that imported balancing and capacity services are cheaper than domestic ones although in the case of Denmark this could be the case in view of the large hydro capacity of its neighbours.

Chapter 14

NOT THE FAIRWAY

Extracts from NWP press release 27th October 2000,

British Parliamentarians consider the future potential of the UK Wind Industry

Following a two day fact finding mission to Denmark to witness the success of the Danish wind generation industry, **17 MP's 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 National Wind Power** an Innogy business and 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.

However, Moore stressed that, "Despite the slow growth in the UK to date, the potential for expansion in the UK is enormous. We have an enviable 40% of Europe's wind resource, We also know that **turbine manufacturers would not hesitate to open a manufacturing base in the UK** creating hundreds of jobs, **if market stability could be guaranteed over here.**" One of the problems facing the UK wind industry is that it has taken up to three years for wind farms to go through the planning and Public Inquiry process, with less than a one in five chance that planning permission will be granted at the end of it. **Regional targets for renewable energy will go some way to help alleviate the "not in my back yard" attitude**, and a fair buy out price within the **Renewables Obligation mechanism** will allow a more flexible approach to the **location of suitable sites for development within the regions.**

In order to achieve the UK Government's target for 10% of electricity from renewable energy generation by 2010, it is estimated that about 4,400MW of wind power both on-land and off-shore must be operational before 2010; the equivalent to a 12 fold increase in wind energy developments. There was general recognition of the potentially bright future for the UK wind industry by the parliamentarians, and an understanding of the important role that **the Government must play to both realise and release its potential.**

. From Register of Members' Interests UK Parliament

Overseas visits (Registered 20 December 2000)

16-17 October 2000, to Denmark with the Associate Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group (PRASEG) to witness the Danish Wind Farm Sector and meet with senior members of the Danish Government Energy Agency and the Danish Wind Industry Flight and accommodation paid for by National Wind Power UK

It is now quite impossible to separate the following issues

High court verdict ref CO/5079/1998 Rejection of all four ground of NWP appeal

Need for planning reform as almost demanded by the wind industry (chapter3)

Regional targets to be decided and fed into the RPG

Portability of contracts which had failed at the planning stage.**

I have mentioned The Chris Blandford Report earlier in Chapter 11 where I indicated the further reference in this chapter .I make no apologies for reiterating part of that paragraph since to me it tells the whole story.

Alan Moore, Managing Director of National Wind power and present chairman of BWEA accompanied 17 MP's and a Member of the House of Lords on a visit to a Danish Wind farm. NWP paid for flights and accommodation. **He states that regional targets will go some way to help alleviate the "not in my back yard attitude."*

****Abstracts from Alan Moore's speech to PRASEG 6/07/00**

" For those of you no familiar with national Wind Power,we are the leading owner and developer of windfarms in the UK.

The pie chart from Dti consultation document from February this year. And shows their estimate of how the various technologies will contribute towards the 10%in 2010. Tthe central scenario show offshore wind will be some 21% of the total and offshore 13% Therefore a major part of the DTI 10% is coming from wind.

The NFFO process itself was an auction process. To achieve .a low price you had to be in a high wind speed area. That is what drove the industry predominately to the hill tops.

The NFFO process required you to state the precise site of your project without scope to move. There have been proposals for more flexibility in this and I support that. Capital costs have now reduced but we are still having problems with consents.the lower capital costs does mean we can move to lower wind speed sites, for example brown field or industrial sites. There is a remote possibility that NFFO contracts could be moved offshore. Changing the statutory regulation to revise the NFFO contracts could deal with this portability issue The advantage of NFFO is that it is bankable ,whereas I have my doubts the suppliers obligation will be to such an extent, hence the need for portability.

If portability leads to a higher rate of consenting then I believe this is the most rapid course of promoting renewables to meet the 2003 target. For the wind industry consentability and bankability arethe main concerns.

I also believe the suppliers obligation has the advantage that it will permit a greater local involvement in the scheme., this was one problem with the closed bid system of NFFO's' as it prevented local communities being involved in initial discussions This often upset local communities who only knew about the wind farm just before construction

It seems that portability and targets are with us Whether or not they have come about by democratic means. is for you to decide One thing is certain 'commercial confidentiality'is still being used to prevent a fair, .just and early involvement by communities*

The Chris Blandford report pointed out that nearly one third of the region's landscapes are recognized as being of national importance,; National Parks, AONB's and heritage coasts. There are national and internationally important nature conservation sites, including , Ramsar sites Special Protection Areas,.Special Areas for Conservation, National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest
There are two community forests, almost 10000 km rights of way. The Pennine Way has a national and international profile. There is also the Cleveland Way.,andThe Hadrian s Wall National Trail

No small wonder the latest study in November. 2002 on the importance of tourism in the North East reveals it is worth £1.8 billion pounds to the region.

Dr Kim Howells, Minister for Tourism

The study was commissioned by the Department of Culture Media and Sport and One North East About 50000 NE jobs are supported by tourism and a further 50000 relying on the economic spin off, in total 10% of the regional workforce.

The above facts explain in a nutshell why we fight to protect our landscapes from **any** inappropriate development.and I draw your attention to the following quote from Margaret Becket. This is from a letter from DTI on her behalf.(1998)

“ The government is committed to ensuring that the countryside is protected from inappropriate wind energy development.”

I recently heard it said by a member of BWEA that ‘Nimbies’ are now becoming ‘Bananas’ (Build absolutely nothing anywhere near anyone.)

That is not the case and as far as CPRE is concerned their aim is to plan constructively so rural beauty is not sacrificed. not to curtail development (condoned by Lord Falconer November 2001 at a CPRE conference). So far as communities are concerned I believe they have the same principle. If Nimby is changing (and it should not be seen as a derogatory term) then it can only be , with so many of them, to Ninby .(Not in the Nation's Back Yard.)

Hain referred to nimby-ism as a curse and a plague. Nov 25TH Western Mail.

I see it as neither but as an essential element of a democratic society.

One or two observations in respect of the Chris Blandford Association Consultation and discussion documents which preceded the final report are more appropriate in chapter 17

In that chapter I have looked at that consultation and another in detail and hope to show the ‘real involvement’ of people whose quality of life could be affected by the outcome.

Here I wish to comment on the final document itself and on the portability of contracts as announced by Peter Hain in the DTI Press notice (**Both** P/2001/1976 and P/2001/176 are given by DTI as the reference)

Hain grants Freedom for Green Energy 22/03/2001

Peter Hain .Minister for Energy, today unlocked green energy projects blocked by a planning constraint,, to drive forward a significant expansion in the production of green energy.

Examples of multi-million pound projects that should now be able to proceed include the £12million 15MW High Moor wind farm in County Durham and the 6MW Victory Mill energy crop project being developed by Border Biofuels

The above press release was careless and the reference to the High Moor Wind farm at Barningham almost sinister. It caused a great deal of upset to the group so I contacted DTI. They were helpful and after I had explained the situation fully they e- mailed their press officer. (copy below) After fighting for 3 long years we could have done without this .I have not seen any amendment to the actual press release itself.

Dear Elizabeth

I set out below my note to our press officer aimed at clarifying the intention of a paragraph in press notice P/2001/1976

Martin Power.

sent 3/04/2001

From Martin Power

to Sarker Pallab

cc to Kettle Richard, Shanahan Gary. Murray Catherine, Booth Marilyn, Wright Christopher

abstract from e mail to Paleb Sarker ,press officer

Dear Pallab

I had a phone call from Elizabeth Mann of the Durham Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. She is concerned about press notice 2001 about the new flexibility for NFFO contracts.

Mrs. Mann read the Press Notice as indicating that the 15 MW Wind farm originally propose for construction at High Moor might go ahead at the originally proposed location. T.he original proposal had been fought and defeated in the High Court and paragraph 3 could be read as threatening to undermine the court outcome.

I don't know if you can alter the phrasing of the notice after the event, Just slight modification of the wording of paragraph 3 would suffice ,for example.

“Examples of multimillion projects that may now be able to proceeds **at new locations** include National Wind Power's 15 mw wind farm project originally proposed for construction at High Moor County Durham and Border Biofuels 6mw energy crop project originally proposed for construction at Victory Mill”

That conveys the intention better, I believe

One further incident worthy of note is the document on the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the RPG (NE) Targets for renewable energy in the NE and Chris Blandford Associates report were an integral part of this, hence my comments and the unbelievable response.

Having already mentioned the mistake in The Chris Blandford report, perhaps small but critical in terms of the numbers of turbines needed to meet targets for wind energy. This has particular significance when the bone of contention at stakeholder workshops (CBA) throughout the NE region was the relationship between the installed capacity of wind turbines and their net output.

I was concerned that this could filter down to the RPG, since the steering group had disbanded and although my corrected figures had been confirmed by CBA and GO-NE I had no way of knowing whether any real notice had been taken of them. Consequently I decided to respond to the SOS consultation and see if the code of practice had been adhered to.

The contact given was Martin _Leppert @ detr .gsi.gov.uk. My e mail was returned as the address was incorrect. I telephoned DTI to ask for help and they said the address should have had a hyphen not an underscore. That worked (It is one of many times I have contacted government by phone or e mail to find a discrepancy in the address.)

The reply was a gem! I refer to it when I feel frustrated and angry. I often wonder if this is the situation in the UK now, is there any hope if we join the EU. I think there are times when a quick read of the email puts everything into perspective. Does anyone know what is happening? No small wonder we have little faith in consultations if this represents the communication within a department. Surely if someone is listed as a contact they should be told !

20/07/2001 e mail

Elizabeth

I would be grateful if you could supply me with details of the consultation document to which you refer. I cannot find one on my current list. Could you also please let me have contact for the GONE so that I can contact them direct

Thank you

Martin

I received no further communication so am quite unaware of what transpired.

Chapter 15

SIR B OR NOT SIR B

Most definitely **not Sir B** if Sir B refers to Sir Bernard Ingham and whether he was a member of the Barningham High Moor Conservation Group(BHMCG) or the Barningham High Moor Coalition.(BHMC)

After the Barningham public inquiry articles appeared in the press intimating that Sir Bernard had been associated with the local group,BHMCG..

It is sufficient to say that when I telephoned a particular newspaper to tell them the article contained totally incorrect information. they replied that their information came from a reliable source and was correct. This was appalling since only we (BHMCG) knew the truth. I therefore sent a fax to GONE 16/08/99 stating these facts. I received a reply (25/08/99) stating the contents of the fax had been noted.

In a subsequent telephone conversation government office told me they had been informed that Sir B had a cottage in the area and yet they had heard nothing to connect him with Barningham throughout the fight. That was not surprising since he was not involved and did not live in the area.

I think the idea was wishful thinking on behalf of the developers but the truth was they had misread the public feeling. Someone is still getting their geography wrong as they continually refer to Barningham as in Yorkshire instead of Co Durham. That could have been the reason for thinking Sir Bernard had been involved as I have read he is proud of his Yorkshire heritage and has a cottage somewhere in Yorkshire. Sir B is the vice president of Country Guardian (CG.)

Their President is Nigel Evans MP, and patrons are Colin Pickall MP and the lord bishop of Hereford. TheRT Hon Neil Kinnock MP was their first patron

For the record neither Sir Bernard nor CG were part of the Barningham High Moor Coalition.

At the CPRE NE wind energy conference in Newcastle* 21/09/2002 the aim was to look at the implications of delivering onshore NE renewable energy targets To do this it was necessary to invite speakers who could address all the implications and CG* were invited. Ironically they were unable to attend due the pressure of answering requests from numerous groups to provide information on wind energy .They offered to send material but someone would need to display it and our regional policy officer asked me to do so. The wealth of material *displayed* was in the main CG's Only a few articles from National Trust,. Countryside Commission, Amec website and material relating to air transport as the fastest growing sector of greenhouse gas emissions were mine. I emphasise the word displayed as 'used' by CG and Elizabeth Mann, as printed in the publication " Getting The Wind Up" (page 53)could be misconstrued.

* See chapter16

Chapter16

GETTING THE WIND UP

A 68 page conference proceedings entitled “ Getting the Wind Up” was available soon after the event thanks to the efforts of CPRE NE Regional Policy Officer Nic Best. For readers who are not aware of the event or the subsequent publication a few explanatory notes follow. Hosted by CPRE in the North East(September 2002)in conjunction with NEREG and part funding from DTI it was part of NEREG’S consultation programme for renewable energy It was organised very successfully by Co Durham Branch chair, CPRE Campaigns Development Officer for Northumberland & Durham and CPRE Regional Policy Officer (North East)

Prior to the conference there was consultation with CPRE members in the North East with the aim of the conference clearly set out The aim was to address the practical and environmental implications of delivering onshore north east renewable energy targets (mentioned earlier in chapter 11) About 100 people attended on the day, including CPRE members, wind power sceptics, the wind industry GONE, planners, consultants and community groups. Jim Darlington, Director of ‘Planning Environment and Transport for GONE gave a brief outline of Government’s policy for renewables and its attempt to achieve a positive planning framework for a sustainable energy policy. DTI has given £160000 to help develop our regional strategy and raise awareness. He mentioned the Chris Blandford Association study and targets.(I have referred to the results of he CBA study but will comment on the actual stakeholder workshops in the following chapter.

There was agreement on the need for renewables and energy conservation measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and so help tackle the threat of climate change

The following is taken from a write up of notes taken at the conference.

Amongst many other issues Geoffrey Sinclair of Environmental Information Services (EIS) drew attention to the differing scales of development and the importance of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The dramatic improvement in the quality of EIA’s he credited to the persistence of objectors. For small developments 2-4 turbines he mentioned the way the statutory flowchart can be misrepresented by developers to eliminate grounds for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to object to a scheme. The cumulative effect of such of such 2-4 turbine schemes is not assessed and worried him. He also drew attention to the lack of a 3rd party right of appeal. A change of focus after 2010 was predicted as new technologies and offshore wind come on stream but meanwhile he expected considerable development pressure for land based wind farms.

At the end of the day it appeared that the object of the conference might just have been achieved. i.e. acceptable solutions for the planning of renewables in the region. It seemed possible that the government could tackle climate change without sacrificing England’s best loved landscapes to wind turbines. Unfortunately that impression was to be short lived. TNEI and AMEC are proposing 31 x1.5 MW turbines 107metres (348 FT) at Hamsterley Forest in Teesdale, an amenity area, next to the AONB

Chapter 17

CONSULTED OR INSULTED

Allow me to record the personal insults I have endured whilst representing CPRE and the local community in renewable energy consultations in general and specifically wind farm developments.

First however a reminder that these representations have never been anti wind energy but in accordance CPRE remit. i.e. To find acceptable solutions for planning of renewables whilst protecting our landscapes To promote energy efficiency ,energy conservation, both in the domestic sector and industry, plus ‘greening’ of transport , All are essential elements to combat climate change.

Always I have attempted to offer constructive criticism At the Aberdeen All Energy Conference May 2003 I was thanked for attending and offering constructive criticism,! This was by someone who sourced sites for wind farms

At meetings and consultations I have been subject to comments such as, “We know who you are ”and blamed for the lack of turbines in the North East Most appalling was a comment by a member of NWP that day representing BWEA. prior to climbing Mount Kinabalu in Borneo to raise money for the Heart Foundation He said that I had caused then enough trouble and they would sponsor me if I did not come back This was after their unsuccessful High Court challenge

My husband had died a few weeks earlier from a heart attack and I found the remark most upsetting. Worse followed (on a personal level) and is detailed in Chapters 6 and 9

The following article is from the West Highland Free Press 6/04/2002 and attributed to Brian Wilson. *“I also picked up a fascinating result of a survey by BWEA that 25% of all anti wind power letters were written by just 16 people, three of whom are now dead, presumably from over work ”*

NO (Ex) Minister . Such behaviour is totally out of order

Such a disgraceful attitude to death, a total disregard for the effect on relatives is wrong but for a Minister is inexcusable. I was not one of the 16 people mentioned, but the callous attitude I found offensive . I mentioned it to Alan Milburn but realising it was really unfair to ask him to get involved I decided to speak to Brian Wilson myself at the Aberdeen Conference in May.2003

About a week before the conference Brian Wilson cancelled and appeared instead on a video link ! Difficult to argue with a video!

CONSULTED Response to One North East Consultation Document
Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the North East

This 'consultation' (summer 99 I believe) I will record in detail, as in my experience the outcomes of consultations often appear pre determined and seem simply to pay lip service to the issue in question.

Further observations

The meeting was not advertised sufficiently and the timing bad. During the holiday period and very early in the evening.

As CPRE co-ordinator for Co Durham I spent two days in Barnard Castle trying to enlighten as many people as possible.

The media was the obvious answer but for someone other than One NE to do this did not seem appropriate

Furthermore in Darlington the information was delivered as a flyer with the free newspaper and as Barnard Castle does not receive this it appeared they had no notification at all.

To have a document relating to our Future Regional Strategy delivered alongside a Supermarket's special offers and the latest DIY discounts was not to its advantage! Particularly as *sadly many* people are not aware of One North East.

It seemed a lost chance to bring to the community some awareness of the potential power of the Regional Development Agency (RDA) for the North East.

CPRE did respond to the first draft which needed more attention to environmental protection This Consultation draft seems to have addressed this somewhat but I am still not sure the issue has been given sufficient weight.

Questions asked by Elizabeth Mann / CPRE Co-ordinator for Co Durham at the Barnard Castle Consultation. (RES for the North East)

Is one NE really working to create a truly inclusive region in which the potential of all individuals and sectors is fully utilised in making the North East a world-class region for the 21st century? (The task set by DTER)

If so then why is there no reference to Teesdale, Barnard Castle Bowes Museum The A66 or to Dickens Turner and Scott ?

Why is Teesdale area labelled Tees Valley?

Teesdale has a beautiful, natural environment, one of the 6 points listed in the document as necessary for a successful region tourism now employs 50000 people and contributes £800 million to the regional economy.

Let us maximise this potential by advertising these assets

**These questions I posed in order to show the lack of attention paid to Teesdale
A member of Teesdale District Council also a member of One
North East said that he could not do more for Teesdale than for other areas.**

We did not expect more but simply as much.

*There was insufficient time to ask questions as to whether there would be any help available for Teesdale hill farmers and for a definition of new technologies
This was due to a disproportionate amount of the session being spent on issues relating to Teesside Airport, as it had been in Darlington. The official from One North East offered to meet anyone who had unanswered questions.*

I contacted his secretary to arrange an appointment and the only available time was 8am at the offices of One North East.. This entailed leaving home at 6 am but necessary if I was to get the answers I sought.

I was grateful for his time but somewhat taken aback by what he said.

“Farmers had been told for sometime to reduce the number of sheep and had not done so. Therefore they were responsible for the fact that their income was falling alarmingly.

Developers had been lobbying One North East to ask for support to weaken the planning system in favour of wind. They had been told that influence would come through the Regional Planning Guidance (RPG)”

Very concerned I knew then I must pursue the issue of the RPG particularly renewable energy. That is exactly what I have done since then.

DETR Press Notice 06/03/2000 encouraged the setting of renewable energy targets in RPG. (Comments on RPG, renewable energy and regional targets have been made in earlier chapters).

I now include some comments re the CBA Consultation on Proposed Targets for Renewable Energy in the North East to 2010. This was well attended in comparison to the One North East consultation.

GONE established a Steering Group to guide the preparation of a regional assessment for renewable energy in order to assist in achieving national targets set by government, then 5% of UK electricity requirements from renewables by 2003, rising to 10% by 2020.

Five Discussion Papers and an interim report were prepared for comment by the Steering Group. Feedback from the Steering Group were used to present the interim conclusion identifying Renewable Energy Scenarios to be circulated amongst a wide range of stakeholder groups within the North East. In July about 130 groups were circulated though I am not sure who decided which groups should be contacted..

(The Steering Group included 4 Councils, CPRE, Amec Border Wind, BWEA, One North East, Renew North, English Nature, Environment Agency and Countryside Agency)

In establishing targets in the NE the Consultation document stated at 1.7, it would take account of the constraints and conditions for protection of the Region's environment, the ***quality of life of its population*** and the need to provide clean energy supplies.

Targets from the study would be used to inform RPG

I forwarded some comments re the discussion papers as requested and a few follow though these are from memory and consequently very general in nature.

There did not appear to be enough consideration given to development of all renewables with scenarios given relating to wind energy .Cumulative impact, not mentioned except possibly through installed separation distances. Buffer zones appeared inadequate, i.e recommended distance from roads and settlements

Rather than a fixed distance a multiple of turbine height should be used, particularly as turbines are increasing in height

CBA did point out in their interim report (June2000) that one of the two existing sources of information documents they had drawn heavily upon was Energy for a New Century, commissioned by TNEI.

p102 A Gazelle wind turbine developed by Northern Energy Associates is said to have been installed at Cassop school. The Gazelle is a 20kw machine whereas the turbine installed was a 50kw, Atlantic Orient from USA. An interesting snippet from www.learning.co.uk states the turbine will take 20-25 years to pay its way.

It would appear that the result of consultations, large or small, depend very much on who is being consulted and the information given.

The EU CONNECTION

I am not sure where this all started in terms of the EU or the political situation.

However having followed the renewable related developments throughout the Barningham Fight and since I became so concerned about events I wrote to the Prime Minister in December 2002 sending some documents I thought he should see. Tony Blair's agent replied and promised he would make the documents available to the Prime Minister when he next visited his Sedgefield constituency.

I wrote to the agent, Mr Burton and thanked him.

That letter and the reply are in Appendix D

I conclude rightly or wrongly that the PM either knew the situation or did not consider it a concern.

I can now only list the issues which appeared to be connected to the EU and/or politics

European directive Com 97599 (*Forwarded by Stephen Hughes MEP when I inquired whether the EU had power to enforce any targets re renewable energy in general or wind power in particular. He kindly sourced this from the relevant member of the commission though at the same time making it quite clear that he could not himself as a labour MEP, comment on the issue*)

Extract from 1.3.1

Commission's view that an indicative target is a good policy tool. Giving a clear political signal and impetus to action. The strategy and action plan in this White Paper therefore are directed towards the goal of achieving a 12% penetration of renewables in the Union by 2010

It is likely that the projected overall energy use in the EU 15 may decrease by 2010 if the necessary energy saving measures are taken post Kyoto.

The enlargement of the Union to new Member States where RES are almost non-existent Will require an even greater overall increase. **It is in any case to be emphasised that this overall objective is a political and not a legally binding tool.**

,

1.3.2

Member States Targets and Strategies.

It is important that each Member State should define its own strategy and within it propose its own contribution to the overall 2010 objective, indicate the way it expects different technologies to contribute and outline the measures it intends to introduce to achieve enhanced deployment. The document is very long and I have extracted only a minimum

I had contacted the MEP as I felt he was the best contact for the information I needed. since in my attempt to source information from ETSU,DTI, and others in the UK I had found no consensus. The biggest discrepancy was in the figures given for 'actual' energy produced in relation to 'potential' installed capacity.

This was referred to in the GONE commissioned CBA study in their Final Report Oct 2000 at 2.4.2 (I have already drawn attention to the fact in Chapter 16 that the figures given were incorrect)

At this stage information on wind energy and its connection if any with the EC was all I required. I did not ask for support as not knowing the political aspect in relation to wind energy development and obviously there is always a party line to be followed.

A quick reminder that when BHMC went to the High Court it was in support of the Government

Extract from a letter sent to Stephen Hughes MEP on 07/04/98 from Christos Papoutsis member of the European Commission. Ref 0523 This was forwarded to me as the information had been sourced on my behalf for the benefit of the BMHCG.

Subsidies to companies generating wind power.

THE NON Nuclear Energy JOULE-THERMIE programme supports innovative projects relating to wind energy. The JOULE component (DG X11) provides financial support of up to 50% of the eligible costs in the research phase, while the THERMIE component (DG XV11) provides up to 40% of the eligible costs in the demonstration phase.

A new Framework programme is currently under preparation and will also cover energy and environmental issues.

The EU document COM(97 599 final) is entitled 'White paper for a community strategy and action plan'

Having said I will reproduce a minimum I think I must however record a little more that seems particularly relevant

2.5 Support Measures

2.5.1 Targeted Promotion

The ALTENER 11 programme and the subsequent programme included in the proposed Energy Framework Programme will have a crucial role to play as thhe basic instrument for the Action plan.

Information on Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge (TREC) an Altener bid can be found in chapter 11

The Blyth Offshore Wind Farm had a total project cost of Approximately £4million. and received the support of the European Commission from its Thermie Programme.

The 2X2.0 MW turbines Vestas V66 are 91 metres to the tip has an NFFO contract for one of the turbines while the electricity generated by the other turbine is sold through tradable green labels.

The following is from the DTI website

NEW REVIEW

**The Quarterly Renewable
Energy Newsletter**

Issue 49
August 2001

World's Largest Urban Wind Farm Under Study

Three national companies, Corus,
Northern Electric Generation and AMEC

Border Wind have joined together to investigate the feasibility of establishing a wind farm on a major industrial brownfield site on the south bank of the River Tees, within the Redcar and Cleveland Borough. They will work in partnership with the Borough Council, the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, Regional Development Agency One NorthEast and The Northern Energy Initiatives Renewable Energy Agency, and Renew North to develop the TeesWind project. Substantial grant assistance for the study, expected to take about 18 months to complete, was secured through the European Commission's ALTENER Programme. The TeesWind project is being managed by Renew North, which played a key role in getting the idea moving and in winning EU financial support. If successful, work on the site could commence in 2003. The exact scale of the project has yet to be decided, but a wind farm of 30 turbines, for instance, would generate enough electricity to supply the annual requirements of about 45,000 homes.

For more information, contact: Adrian Smith, Renew North,
Tel: 0191 2339303, Fax: 0191 2339309,
E-mail: adrian.smith@tnei.org.uk

Cost was reported as £30 million and turbine heights of 450 ft

This project on contaminated land I gave support to provided it was accepted by Teesside Airport that there would be no interference with their radar system.

Chapter19

SHAKEN AND STIRRED

Shaken by the proposal for 22 turbines approx 300 ft high overshadowing Loch Avich, 20 miles south of Oban Argyll, Sir Sean Connery was stirred to give permission for his name to be used in full support of the campaign against . His official statement I have sourced and included in full from a Press Release 7/12/2002

“While wind power is a wonderful source of clean energy, before it can be put to use ,two conditions must be met.

- 1)The project must be economically feasible
- 2)The project must not ruin the local environment .It is vital that the local residents’ view be considered and that the project will not be an eyesore. Scotland’s scenic vista should not be sacrificed.

He was not the only famous person to have been stirred to action.

Only a week earlier 30/11/2002 the following press release was issued by Views of Scotland (VOS)at their conference in Perth

Professor David Bellamy was confirmed as a patron of VOS

In his statement of support for the group he said

“ Please don’t let the dubious promise of land based wind power turn Scotland into the biggest scrap yard in Europe ”

He expressed his support for renewable energy but pointed to wind farms as being the least desirable option. He called for development of energy sources which were compatible with Scotland’s tourist industry and wildlife and which would create long term employment.

Professor Bellamy lives in Teesdale and will be aware of the TREC related proposals

31 X 1.5 Mw turbines,height 107m (348ft) for Hamsterley Forest, an amenity area next to the AONB

2 x225 Kw second hand turbines, 11 years old, at GlaxoSmithKline with TNEI as agent...Height given is not consistent.(42 and 51 metres) EIA said not to be required but CPRE and residents query this. By virtue of the turbine height >15m,it falls under schedule 2/ 3i (ii) discretionary. 90% of environmental statements in the UK are discretionary. The EU directive on best practice quotes particular attention should be paid new features out of scale with the existing environment and/or unusual in the area.. This development will be both.

Wind turbine at Langdon Beck YHA was dismissed on appeal, movement being one of the reasons. Second application, smaller and off the skyline was given planning permission but did not proceed. as the turbine was to be on a nearby farmer’s land and he refused the considerable rent on offer. .The 3rd application was allowed being in the hostel grounds but the cost is high so it is not expected to set a precedent The issue caused serious divisions within the community However the youth hostel has reduced its energy consumption ,not easy in such an exposed position so credit is due on that score.

Chapter 20

TIME WAITS FOR NO MANN

This has been the most difficult task I have ever undertaken but I honestly feel it is one of the most necessary. The decision was mine and mine alone and I can substantiate everything I have put on record. A piece of Social History, now recorded for the future. At this stage I am uncertain as whether I can afford to have this published professionally or whether finances will determine that I use desk top publishing. I have already edited it somewhat as the first quote was prohibitive unless I sold my house which I was willing to do. (Stanley and I had agreed in 1999 that we would sell the house had the High Court battle taken more funds than we had been able to collect from voluntary sources)

After 3 months with the market less buoyant than previously I decided not to sell. This due to the need to train for Kilimanjaro and not feeling able to cope with moving house as well.

Once again it was the case of an ill wind blowing no one any good, since I did not really wish to move house.

Though this relates specifically to the grand landscape in and around Teesdale, it is only one of numerous fights currently taking place throughout the UK

Whichever way 'Force Ten' manages to surface I intend to 'bury' several copies on the High Moor as I did with the Barningham booklet. A time capsule so future generations will know that we tried to save. their heritage.

Whether or not our landscapes will be saved from inappropriate development remains to be seen but at least there will be proof of the long hard fight to protect them. There will also be proof of the many undemocratic events we endured

Chapter21

Simply Read

ABSTRACTS FROM PRESS ARTICLES

FARMERS GUARDIAN, June 6, 2003. Points of View

- Letters False Claims of wind lobby - by top QC

A comment on this false claim came from an eminent QC *"The use of patent untruths, lies, call them what you will by the wind farm developers appals me. The developers are trying to manipulate public opinion."* (Kentish Express 23/1/03) And from the Leader of a County Council *"The thing that has galled everyone is the lies the developers have told in their environmental report"*. (Rye Sussex Observer 31/1/03)

Northern Echo July 4 2003

Energy supplier is fined £100000

Npower was fined £100000 for misleading customers in a price freeze promotion that increased their bills

Guardian May 9.2003

AMEC was accused of running roughshod over its own ethical and environmental policy by accepting a half share in a £200 m contract for The Caspian to Black Sea pipeline.

The Guardian Saturday May 31, 2003 Stewart Boyle and Paul Brown

Farmers burned as green energy plant faces export. £30m power station goes bankrupt after eight days, leaving growers high and dry After producing electricity for only eight days the government's £30m renewable energy project, a wood burning power station in Yorkshire, has gone bankrupt and been sold for £3m to an American who may dismantle it and ship it off to India The sale is a disaster for Britain's green energy policy, which plans to have wood burning and other biomass projects account for half of all renewable energy generated by 2010. The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that it had no idea who had bought the plant from the receiver.

Thirty-five farmers, who had signed 12-year contracts to provide the power station in Eggborough with coppiced willow, have been left without a market. Among them is Ben Gill, the president of the National Farmers' Union.

Energy group Innogy

, the country's biggest wind farm operator is seeking a substantial injection of external capital to help a huge expansion of its renewable business that could see it give up a majority stake. The Government's commitment to getting 10% of Britain's power generated by renewables by 2010 could entail a £10 bn investment programme, according to Brian Count Innogy's chief executive.

"We have said we would like a large chunk of that investment which in our case would mean as much as £500m," Mr Count said yesterday. Wind power given a boost by last month's Energy White Paper carries a substantial price premium through the government's renewable obligation scheme and has attracted significant city interest,

Recent articles in the local and National Press regarding offshore wind energy, many from eminent scientists, are numerous but seem to have a common thread relating to intermittency and cost. At The All Energy Conference in Aberdeen this year, though offshore wind was championed and a figure of 4GW stated, **it was pointed out we will still need 8GW on shore**

. That equates to 533 wind farms in the UK with the installed capacity of 'Barningham'. The North East would need 40 'Barninghams' to reach the Regional target of 600 KW as proposed

- With Government's press release stating that offshore wind energy will contribute 5% of UK energy consumption by 2010, on shore development to such an extent can not be justifiable.

Why not visit the following sites to see which way the wind blows?

www.bwea.com

www.countryguardian.net

www.planning.haynet.com

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- Chapter 1:** **Sars War**
Who makes the decisions?
Who is most affected by them?
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The High Court Decision.
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1998 Was this the Wind Industry's Worst Year?
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| Chapter 12: | Kielder Wind Farm Campaign Attempt to overturn Dti's decision Judge backs rejection of Kielder Wind Farm |
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| Chapter 21 | Simply read Press articles/Web sites. |

APPENDICES

Appendix A Letters from Germany Wind turbines and property devaluation

That equates to 533 wind farms in the UK, and in the North
Birmingham The North West and Yorkshire and the Humber
Developers of wind farms in the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber
targeted as 600 KW to target

With Government's press release stating that offshore wind energy will
contribute 5% of UK energy consumption by 2010, onshore wind energy
in such an extent can not be justified

Why not visit the following sites to see which way the wind blows?

www.bwea.com

www.countryguardian.net

www.planning.baynet.com

END

BLS-Regionalsgruppe Mitte • Prof. Dr. Lothar Holschen
Renthof 25 • 35037 Marburg

Marburg: 1.8.1997

BLS-Regionalsgruppe Mitte
Prof. Dr. Lothar Holschen
Renthof 25
35037 Marburg
Tel. + Fax: 00421/66488

Dear Mrs Mann,

Enclosed are the Fotos (A)-(C) and
a description of a house in northern
Germany surrounded by windmill

Sincerely yours
L. Holschen

I hope that Mr. D. Krämer can send
more about tourism very soon!

The owners of this house are sick by the noise. The costs of the house (when it was built) were 400 000, DM.

Now it is impossible to sell it for 200 000,- DM.

The nearest turbine is in a distance of 300 m.

The owners of this house are very sick (ill) by the noise and the Disco-effect of the wind turbines, and lost almost all of their tourist (this house is a smaller holiday-rent-home)
(the nearest wind turbine in a distance of 170 m)

From Marlburg
Germany

immer mehr Windmühlen machen den schönen Westerwald kaputt

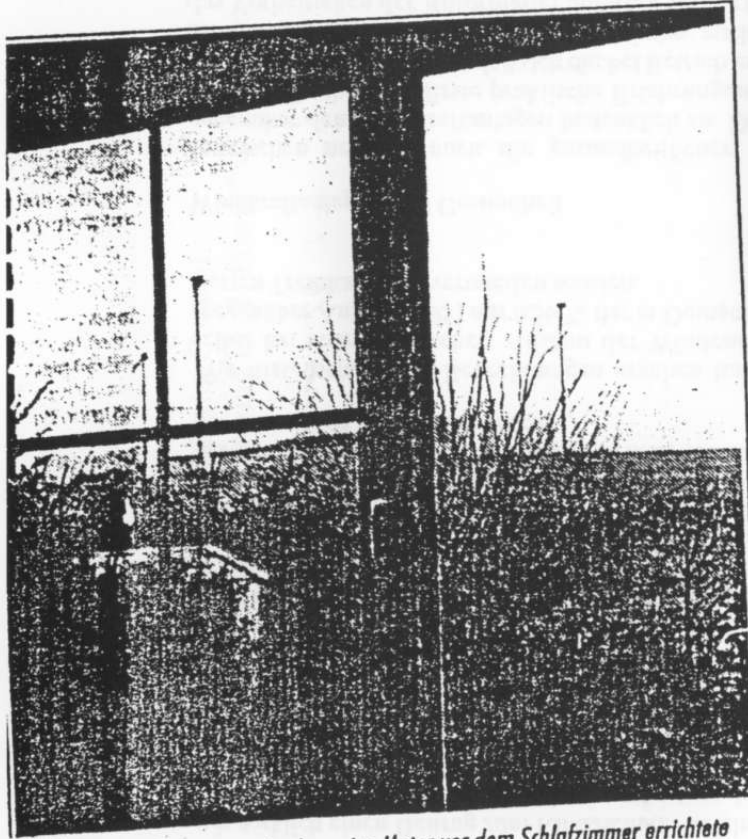
Fortsetzung von Seite 1

Gründerversammlung der S-Regionalgruppe einmal sehr deutlich, daß Windenergie wenig Sinn macht und unter dem Deckmäntelchen „lieber eine Windkraftanlage als

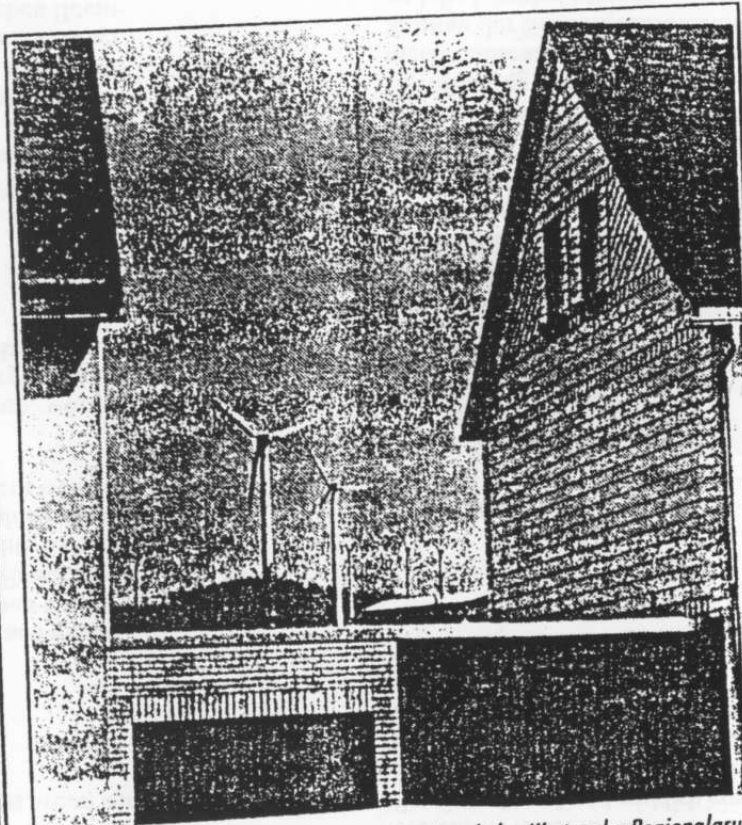
ein Kernkraftwerk in meinem Dorf „viele Bürger vor den Karren der schnellen „wie-lange-noch-bezuschußten-Geldmacherei der Betreiber“ spannt. „Nur weil sich einige wenige eine goldene Nase bezuschus-

sen lassen wollen, darf unsere Landschaft nicht unter dem Windmühlenstahl begraben werden „hieß es auf der Versammlung die heute schon weiß, daß noch größere Anlagen mit Flügelspannweiten

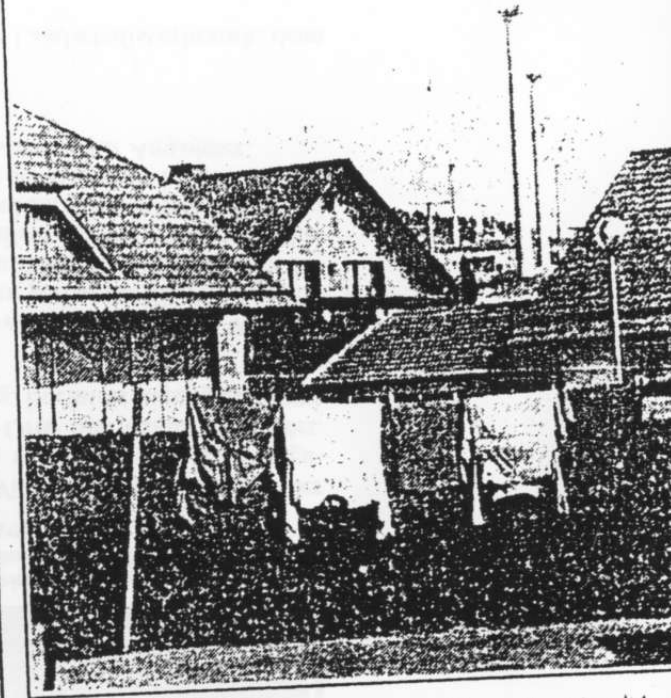
vom höchsten Punkt bis zur Erde von über 100 Metern (3 mal so hoch wie ein Kirchturm) in ihrer geliebten Heimat zu Geldmühlen auf Kosten industriell überformter Natur werden sollen.



Ein unerträgliches Summen durch wenige Meter vor dem Schlafzimmer errichtete Windkraftanlagen machen aus den nahegelegenen Schlafzimmern einiger Hofer Bürger regelrechte Folterkammern.



„Kaputte Westerwälder Romantik“ spiegelt sich nach den Worten der Regionalgruppe auch über diesen Garagen wider.



Die Wäsche im Hof trocknet auf diesem Foto im Schatten der viel zu dicht angebauten Windkraftanlagen in Hof.

It is impossible to sell the houses of this village in middle Germany.

The awful look at typical German houses

wir wirklich einen Beitrag zum Klimaschutz, welche Gemeindeflächen sollen wir dafür ausweisen und ist es für die ganze Gemeinde (z. B. aus steuerlichen Gründen) vorteilhaft, wenn wir die Landschaft in dieser Weise verändern?

Windenergie und Treibhauseffekt

Die Frage ist zunächst, ob die Windenergienutzung einen wesentlichen Beitrag für den globalen Klimaschutz zu leisten vermag. Richtig ist, daß Hauptverursacher der globalen Erwärmung (Treibhauseffekt) das durch den Menschen verursachte Kohlendioxid (CO₂) ist und trotz aller Warnungen (Ozonloch, Hautkrebszunahme) die CO₂-Emissionen nicht ab-, sondern weltweit pro Jahr um ca. 1,9 % zunehmen.

Wie wissenschaftliche Berechnungen ergeben haben, würden selbst bei einem 10-fachen Ausbau der Windenergienutzung (gegenüber Anfang 1995) nur 0,56 % der in Deutschland produzierten Treibhausgase vermieden werden.

Windkraftanlagen und Gesundheit

Inzwischen nehmen auch die gesundheitlichen Vorbehalte gegenüber den Windkraftanlagen bedenklich zu. Das dtv-Lexikon (1995) schreibt: „Erste praktische Erfahrungen mit großen Windkraftanlagen zeigten, daß sich die bei Betrieb entstehenden Strömungsgeräusche als sehr störend erwiesen, auch wird durch das Vorbeiziehen der Rotorblätter am Mast Infraschall erzeugt, der dazu führt, daß es im großen Umkreis zu erheblichen Beeinträchtigungen kommt (Klappern von Fenstern, Klirren von Geschirr u.a.).“

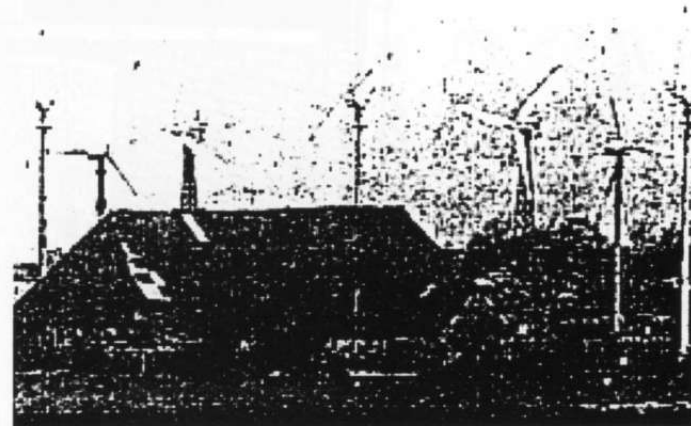
Der Lärmbelästigung bis ein Kilometer Entfernung sind durch die bisherigen Windkraftanlagen schon jetzt mehr als 100.000 Menschen ausgesetzt; in immer mehr Klagen der Bevölkerung wird auf die gesundheitsgefährdenden, nicht hörbaren niederfrequenten Schwingungen, die enormen Störungen durch die Dauerbelästigung bei Tag und Nacht und die entstehenden körperlichen wie psychischen Beschwerden hingewiesen.

In der Sendung Explosiv am 18.06.1996 zum Thema „Windkraft

ist laut“ hieß es: „Ein Dorf in der Nähe von Rostock (Langen-Treschow) leidet für den Umweltschutz“.

Ein Gutachter: Es ist wirklich eine psychische Belastung im Sinne eines Stressfaktors mit körperlichen Auswirkungen; die Machtlosigkeit gegenüber den 70 m hohen Windrädern macht die Menschen im Dorf krank. Ein Anwohner: Das hält man einfach nicht aus!

in Ne
Gen



Windkraftanlagen wie diese hier in Friedrichsfeld prägen mittlerweile vielerorts das Bild in Norddeutschland. Die bauerliche Landschaft wird zum industriellen Standort, Dörfer werden eingeprengt.

Die Akzeptanz der Vielzahl von Windanlagen nimmt auch in der Bevölkerung Schleswig-Holstein ständig ab. Die Hauptargumente lauten: Veränderung des Orts- und Landschaftsbildes, Störung der Siedlungsentwicklung, Beeinträchtigung der Natur und die Lärmbelästigung.

Störende Geräusche treten auf, wenn der Abstand zu Wohngebäuden und Erholungsgebieten nur gering ist. Ein Abstand von 350 m erscheint Experten nicht ausreichend, denn nicht nur der Schallpegel selbst, sondern vor allem ständig wiederkehrende Geräusche (Tropfeneffekt) stören und der Diskoeffekt (Blitzen bei Sonne) und der Schattenwurf, der die Menschen bis in ihre Häuser verfolgt, sind zusätzliche Belastungen der Anwohner.

Natur- und Landschaftsschutz

Der größte Nachteil ist aber der Landschaftsverbrauch, denn

“One Man trying to get Power”

Fair or foul play as a leader is appointed?

Teesdale Council now more divided than ever

**SPECIAL REPORT by
David Roberts**

COUNCILLORS are crying foul over the election of a leader of Teesdale District Council.

Amid claims of vote-rigging and going against the constitution of the council, Coun Phil Hughes was elected leader in a stormy annual meeting of the council last week.

A party of independent councillors, led by Coun Hughes, voted en bloc to push through a number of controversial measures.

However, one of the most important committees in the council was filled entirely with opponents of Coun Hughes after a member of his party spoiled their ballot paper.

Father of the council, Coun John Armstrong, later described the events in the chamber last Wednesday as disgusting.

"This is just one man trying to get power," he told *the Mercury*. "Never in 48 years of attending meetings of the district council have I seen such a disgusting sight."

"The man who's put himself forward as leader, was a member of the administration and governance overview scrutiny committee – a very important committee – and he never attended one meeting. He was a member of another two committees and he attended one once and another one twice."

Another councillor has suggested the independent group acted illegally by failing to declare themselves as a group.

"They've had meetings, and you've got to declare yourself as a group," said Coun Ken Coates. "They've bulldozed this through without consultation. If they can do that, what's next on the hidden agenda?"

Coun Coates also criticised independent councillors telephoning non-aligned councillors to try and persuade them to vote with the independent group.

Leader of the Labour group at Teesdale Council, Coun Ken Robinson, echoed these senti-

"This is just one man trying to get power"
says Father of the Council, John Armstrong

ments and said: "We've always been a hung council and chose not to have a leader because there's no overall majority. We chose this system of administration after consultation with the public."

"Now some members have aspirations of moving towards a leader and cabinet. We're moving towards leadership by proxy. The last time such a group tried to take over Teesdale Council was in the early 90s and it went down like a lead balloon."

One non-aligned member who refused to vote with the independent group was Coun Keith Watson. He felt he would be betraying his constituents if he voted with a group, he said.

"I did go to a meeting and they did have some good points," he said. "However, I said in *the Mercury* I would be running purely as an independent. I don't know just where this is going. In my opinion it is

just a bigger group."

"Three or four of them kept ringing me up and asking me to join. That in itself led to a bit of suspicion."

The council meeting made unlikely bedfellows of Labour and Conservative councillors, as well as four non-aligned members, who all voted together to try and stop Coun Hughes and his party.

The controversy began when the council was asked to vote on the election of a leader.

In his maiden speech, Conservative councillor, Coun Richard Bell, argued against the election of a leader.

"In only my second visit to the chamber we're discussing the appointment to an office that seems to me to not exist," he said. "The duties and responsibilities are not defined and I fail to see how we can make an appointment."

• Continued on back page.

'Unlikely bedfellows'

Continued from Page 1

However, Coun Newton Wood said every audit and every report by consultants stressed the need for a leader within the council.

Director of administration and monitoring officer, Mike Dennis, said the election of a leader would not be unconstitutional or unlawful.

In a named vote on whether to elect a leader, the vote was split at 16 votes for and against. It was left to newly-appointed chairman, Coun Ken Hodgson, to have a casting vote. He decided to let the election go ahead.

The immediate past chairman, Coun Hughes, was nominated by Coun Wood.

In another named vote, Coun Hughes was voted in by 16 votes. The 16 councillors who originally voted against the election refused to vote, as they believed the vote was illegal.

The debate stretched on as councillors tried to agree the make-up of each committee, with each decision going to a ballot. Members reached an impasse when trying to decide the make-up of the Corporate Strategy Group – the group which puts suggestions to the policy committees and prepares the budget.

Although the constitution said the group should be representative of the political make-up of the council, the council had just previously agreed that all that was required were seven members to sit on it.

Once again tempers flared as Coun Hughes moved that the council's standing orders be suspended so the constitution could be changed.

Coun Robinson, argued that seven days notice should be given for this to happen. However, after consultation with Mr Dennis the vote was allowed to go ahead.

"If it's the wish of the council to change the constitution then I've no complaints," said Conservative councillor, Coun Jo Fergus. "But by God I've got a complaint if it's by the casting vote of the chairman."

Once again the votes were tied at 16 each way and it was left to Coun Hodgson to give the casting vote for the change to the constitution.

Coun Hughes' group nominated seven councillors and two Conservative and three Labour councillors were nominated from the opposition.

Each councillor had to choose up to seven names from the 12 nominees.

However, a spoiled ballot paper meant that the seven nominees from Coun Hughes' party all had one less

vote than the remaining five.

An angry Coun Hughes came to the front of the council chamber and asked to see the paper. Six names had been filled in correctly, however, the remaining name was a councillor who had not been nominated. Coun Hughes argued the six who were nominated should be counted as being voted for and the remaining name discounted.

"This is Teesdale not Florida," commented Coun Richard Betton.

Coun Hodgson accepted the recommendations of Mr Dennis and chief executive, Charles Anderson, and agreed the paper had been spoiled.

At which point the remaining seven candidates all withdrew their names from the second ballot.

Couns Keith Watson and Peter Stubbs, who had voted against Coun Hughes' party, were then nominated for the remaining two seats on the Corporate Strategy Group and accepted. Although there is no defined role for a leader, Coun Hughes said there were a number of duties.

These included motivating people, setting goals and targets being the visible and outward focus of the organisation, and striving for the very best for the organisation.

The leaders should also try and strive for harmony and improve the function and focus of the council. He also should accept responsibility for failure and step aside for someone else to try!

As he left the chairmanship of the council, Coun Hughes asked councillors to think about whether the council was better led by people who were strong and robust like oaks, or supple and bending to every wind like willows.

"I guess I got my answer later," he said. "It's an opportunity lost, a great chance to demonstrate leadership in all the areas the council has been tested on, and found wanting."

"It was an historic decision to elect a leader, and it's a pity it wasn't supported by the whole council."

"Over the past few years since Best Value was put in place the authority has struggled to find its way and we haven't been impressive whenever we've been externally audited. Even our peer review recommended that leadership from the councillors needed to be demonstrated."

"I've been elected as leader, I've yet to reach a complete understanding as to how leadership can be expressed under the present system of corporate governance."

Appendix C Keilder Wind Farm Campaign.
Developers try to quash Government's refusal



Kielder Windfarm Campaign

The Decision Letter...

5.00pm 29th March 2001

Home 
Projects 
Kielder 

Wind Energy in Britain / EcoGen's Kielder Proposal / The Planning Process for this proposal / The DTI Decision /
Permission Hearing Verdict / The Legal Challenge / Public Enquiry?

*David Still Esq
General Manager
EcoGen Developments Limited
c/o AMEC Border Wind
Bridge End
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 4NU*

AAH/1/96

Our ref:

29 March 2001

Dear Sir

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE WIND TURBINES AT HUMBLE HILL, KIELDER,
NORTHUMBERLAND

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

to be granted.

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

He is also aware that the Tynedale Council and the Northumberland County Council, the relevant planning authorities, raised no objection in principle to the proposal. Their decisions were subject to the provision of suitable conditions attached to any planning permission the Secretary of State may have deemed to be granted and the Company entering into an agreement under section 106 of the Planning Act. Subject to agreement on the terms of the planning conditions and the section 106 agreement the RPAs would not have maintained their objections and therefore the Secretary of State would not have been obliged to hold a public inquiry. He was also of the opinion that the other objections he received to the proposal were not sufficient for him to exercise his discretion to hold a public inquiry.

However, as you know, the Ministry Of Defence (MOD) objected to the original proposal on the grounds that the wind turbines would interfere with primary and secondary radar therefore impairing the effectiveness of the nearby Spadeadam Electronic Tactics Range (EWTR). In an effort to overcome the MOD's objection the Company reduced the number of wind turbines and reconfigured their location on the site. To this effect the Company submitted a variation to the application on 18 April 2000.

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

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

difficult since the responses between the aircraft and the turbine cannot be distinguished.

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

SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECISION

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

The Secretary of State takes the view that national security, the importance of the Spadeadam EWTR in the training of RAF aircrew and consideration of safety leave him no option but reluctantly refuse to grant consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and not to give a direction under section 90 of the Planning Act.

Yours faithfully

The crux of the DTI's assessment is,

"The EWTR lies to the south of the site of the proposed wind farm and aircraft approaching it would have had to fly over the Windfarm. There is no other route and the proposed windfarm would interfere with radar and with low flying, particularly at times of poor visibility.

The site is actually well inside the EWTR, just where the RAF were happy with it, out of the way of the 'keeping low' lanes. Crossing our site would be an unusual route. Hills, forests, TV masts and other aerals '...interfere with radar and low flying, particularly at times of poor visibility'

Our options now are to persuade the DTI that they have made a mistake and change the decision, or to go to Judicial Review within the six weeks (each a long time in politics!). With the support that's coming in, and modern communication, I think we can persuade - we've got till May 6TH if my calendars right!

The web site – <http://www.ecogen.co.uk/kielder.htm> is being updated fairly regularly as things progress. I've posted the text of our Environmental Statement on the web a couple of hours ago - most of the project details can be found there.

We aim to be developing the web site to promote the arguments and co-ordinate action. What we need is the word spreading, supporters subscribing to our news updates (- <mailto:kielder@ecogen.co.uk> with 'SUBSCRIBE' in the subject box) and folk filling in our e-petition from the web site. 300 hits and we get a free listing on Number 10's web site.

I'll keep you posted.

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<http://www.ecogen.co.uk/kieldernews.htm>

Adrian Smith, General Manager, Renew North

From: Adrian Smith

Sent: 28 March 2001 13:32

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

Subject: Wind Farm Proposal By Ecogen in Tynedale District

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

As you will be well aware wind developments are frequently controversial, but this one has broad based support from the local authority, environmental groups, the local population, and others. A recently published study commissioned by the Government Office for the North East indicated that for this region to play its part in meeting the Government's target of 10% renewable electricity by 2010 some 200 to 350MW of new on-shore wind generation must be provided. The region has a number of virtual no-go areas for wind in terms of national and local designations which recognise and seek to protect the landscape. The site in question is in our opinion the best location in the region for large scale wind development, it will positively add to the interest of the landscape rather than detracting from it. Refusal of permission will have the effect of increasing the degree of development pressure on other less suitable sites, and will lead to failure in meeting the Government's target for renewables.

In other areas of planning, such as housing and retail site selection, the Government uses a sequential approach to ensure that development takes place first on the least damaging or sensitive sites. A refusal on this site flies in the face of that well established approach. Other benefits to the rural economy will also be lost, at a time when new employment in the wake of the local Foot and Mouth outbreak is desperately needed. I should be grateful if you would convey these concerns from the region's Renewable Energy Agency to the Minister concerned.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Smith

General Manager, Renew North

<http://www.ecogen.co.uk/kieldersupport.htm>

12/09/2003