



View from Goodleigh Road, Barnstaple

Public exhibition

A public exhibition of the proposals will be held at the following venues on the following dates:

Ilfracombe
Landmark Centre Wednesday 2nd June
12 noon to 2.30pm and 4.00 pm to 8.00pm

Braunton
Braunton Parish Hall, Thursday 3rd June
12 noon to 2.30 pm and 4.00pm to 8.00pm

Barnstaple
Barnstaple Hotel, Tuesday 8th June
12 noon to 2.30pm and 4.00pm to 8.00pm

On site
In a barn opposite the Higher and Lower Metcombe signpost on the Hore Down to Prieford Road on Saturday, 12th June
10.00 am to 4.00pm



View from Beara Cross North



View from Hewish Down

Answering your questions

Tourism is North Devon's number one industry. Do you think that it may be affected by these proposals?

We have employed a tourism consultant who is advising us and we will address any concerns raised. We do not believe that the proposed development will have a significant impact on tourism in the area. Research carried out in North Cornwall found that 94% of tourists questioned said that the presence of wind farms has had no impact on the likelihood of them visiting North Cornwall again. The topography of the landscape means that the turbines will not be visible from significant parts of the populated coastal areas and beaches.

It is claimed that wind turbines are very inefficient - they work only for about 30% of the time, when there is sufficient wind. How can such intermittent generators help the national supply?

The turbines themselves are relatively efficient converters of wind energy into electricity, but because wind is intermittent the average productivity in the UK is 35% of capacity. However they differ from most other electricity sources in that the fuel is free. By feeding into the Grid the power they generate is used to reduce the output from fossil fuel power stations thus reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Will the turbines be harmful to birds and bats?

Policy notes from the RSPB indicate that appropriately positioned wind turbines do not pose a significant hazard for birds and there are few instances of bird collisions with turbines. Likewise there is no evidence in the UK to suggest wind farms are a risk to bats. However both these issues will be covered in our Environmental Impact Assessment.

Are you concerned that 'shadow flicker' from wind turbines can initiate epileptic fits and cause irritation to those living nearby?

Flickering may occur in certain light conditions and frequencies but it is dependent on the number of blades and the rotation rate. This should not exceed 2.5 Hz, which for three-bladed turbines indicates a rotational speed of 50rpm - the design speed of the proposed turbines is only 19rpm. According to the Epilepsy Foundation epileptic seizures are not likely to be triggered by frequencies below 10Hz.

Will the turbines affect local radio and TV reception through electro-magnetic interference?

We have taken care to ensure that this does not happen, but we will rectify any problems in the unlikely event that they arise.

Are the turbines a danger to aircraft?

We have consulted both the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Defence. Neither has raised an objection.

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21 May 2004

Dear North Devon Resident

We are writing to advise you that we are planning to submit an application to the Department of Trade and Industry for a wind farm on Fullbrook Down, south east of Ilfracombe.

The proposal is for 20 turbines, each with a capacity of 3 MW, which will go a long way towards meeting the wind energy target set for Devon by 2010. Sufficient energy will be produced to supply 56,000 homes enabling the output of fossil-fuel power stations to be reduced, thus cutting their carbon dioxide emissions by about 185,000 tonnes per year.

The wind farm will comply with the latest guidelines on noise. The turbines are of the latest design and those nearer to habitations will incorporate sound reduction systems to ensure that noise is kept to acceptable levels.

Some of the highest onshore wind speeds in Devon have been recorded at Fullbrook and the natural topography of the area will help to mitigate the visual impact of the turbines without impeding their productivity.

Further information on the scheme will be found in the attached pages.

We are anxious to involve the local community as widely as possible in our proposal and we have arranged local exhibitions of our plans to which you are invited. Details of venues and times will be found inside. At the exhibitions you will have an opportunity to meet and ask questions of the specialists advising us on the various aspects of the proposal.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Michael Baker
Chairman