

WIND TURBINES AND SOLAR FARMS



[View of Fullbrook Wind Farm from Appledore](#)

The True Cost of our Wind

"Not only are they (Wind Turbines) a blight on the landscape, they are the most expensive, inefficient and unreliable form of energy.

Many people are struggling to pay their energy bills and the dash for wind energy unnecessarily adds a considerable amount on to everyone's bills in order to line the pockets of rich landowners.

It is Robin Hood in reverse — taking money from the poorest in order to line the pockets of the richest."

Philip Davies MP, Sunday Post, 04/05/2014

The true extent of the proliferation of wind turbines in the North Devon, Torrridge, and West Devon areas is becoming very apparent. Between Dartmoor and the North Devon Coast, there are in operation 122 giant wind turbines, with another 78 having passed the planning stage and awaiting construction and another 45 are under consideration by the relevant planning authorities or awaiting the outcome of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. Only 18, (7%) have been refused permission. This is an appalling state of affairs, not only because of the huge numbers but also because these monstrosities have been sited close to our historic and



ancient villages and buildings and have blighted the everyday lives of thousands of people who live in Torrridge and West Devon. They have caused misery to those residents whose own properties have been greatly devalued because of the proximity of a turbine. Some are unable to sell such properties even when devalued. The tourist industry is blighted because tourists come to Devon to enjoy our wonderful coastline and countryside, not to be subsumed by an industrial landscape of wind turbines. People cannot get a decent night's sleep because of the thumping and whirring of the blades. The continual daytime flicker made by the turbines destroys the peaceful amenity of

hundreds of Devonians living in the normally peaceful and tranquil Torrridge countryside. Of course, the cost of the wind turbines and the subsidies paid to the land-owners are not met by the government, but are charged to us all through the Green Energy Charge applied to our energy bills. This has the effect of placing many pensioners and those on low incomes into fuel poverty, (that is having to pay over 10% of their disposable income on fuel) because they have to pay this fuel surcharge and cannot really afford to do so. The proliferation of turbines might seem worthwhile if they were an efficient form of energy production, but they are totally inefficient. When the



wind is not blowing, we still need electricity, thus there has to be a back up to produce our needs in the form of conventional generation. Likewise, in the hours of darkness, solar panels produce no energy. To find out at any one time how much energy is being produced by wind power, go to <http://www.gridwatch.templar.co.uk/>. Look at the site on a windless day and you will not be surprised to see that no energy is being produced by wind at all. The shortfall has to be covered by Gas, Coal or Nuclear!! You will find that UKIP has a sensible energy policy which can be viewed under the Policies Page on this site.

So who is responsible for the proliferation of wind turbines across Torrridge. I was at the launching of the Blimp (Ballon) on Friday 4th April 2014 at Shebbear and listened to the Tory MP for Torrridge and West Devon, Geoffrey Cox say how much he opposed Wind Turbines. I have listened to some excuses given by MPs trying to defend their government's policies, but really Mr Cox takes the biscuit. In fact, he was quite pathetic. His excuse was that Wind Turbines had nothing to do with him and the Tory Party and their spread is all the fault of the their coalition partners, the nasty Lib Dems who are blocking any attempts by the Tories to halt their proliferation. I have never heard such a litany of excuses. He went on and on slating the Lib

Dems. Some of the protestors present, obviously Tories said “Poor Geoffrey. He is only doing his best to stop the spread of turbines”. I have news for them, poor Geoffrey sat on the Environment Select Committee when the Climate Change Act 2008 was being scrutinized by cross party MPs and he co-authored their report. One section of the report dealt with the Bill’s Aim of cutting CO2 emissions to 60% below the 1990 levels by 2050. He wrote, and I quote, **“ The Government and the new Committee on Climate Change should have a clearer independent mandate, should review the 60% target and assess whether it should be higher”** Indeed the then Labour government, (the present leader of the Labour Party Ed Milliband was the Energy Minister responsible for the framing and introduction of the act), did review the target and indeed did make the target higher, **20% higher**. I pointed this out to Mr Cox and his answer was ”What has this got to do with Wind Turbines” and he quickly moved on to another questioner. Mr Cox, the Climate Change Act has everything to do with Wind Turbines. If the Act was not in place, we would not have any wind turbines. Turbines do not generate any electricity which could be deemed cost effective and the only reason they are in place is because of the subsidies paid to produce their CO2 Emissions Free Electricity, all part of the Climate Change Act.

The other guilty parties in this are the Torrridge councillors who sit on the TDC Planning Committee. Guess what? The councillors who invariably pass the planning applications for the Turbines number 4 Tories and 1 Lib Dem. They always outvote the 3 Independent councillors who try within reason to oppose the spread of the turbines. Of course they are all following planning guidelines introduced by our Coalition Government which basically states that the generation of electricity outweighs all other planning considerations. In fact the councillors on the Torrridge Planning Committee are so determined to follow the government guidelines that they overturned the Torrridge District Council’s Planning Officer’s recommendation for refusal by granting the planning application for the Turbine pictured on the foot of the previous page, sited near the village of Buckland Brewer.

Solar farms have the effect of taking out of agricultural production farm land which should be used to grow crops. Instead, land is being used to site solar panels, another uneconomic way of producing electricity. No electricity is produced during the hours of darkness and they have to be backed up by conventional forms of generating electricity, ie coal and gas. Farm land is easy pickings for the energy industry to place solar panels. UKIP says that Solar panels should be placed on agricultural and industrial buildings.

Let us get one thing straight. No Solar farms or Wind Turbines have been built in the UK without massive subsidies. In fact, no wind farming or solar farming takes place at all : they’re farming tax-payer subsidies and the ones who profit by all of this are the fat cat (mostly foreign) energy companies and their shareholders. The people who pay are the energy users in the UK who are billed a massive surcharge on their energy bills. The ones who pay the most are all the elderly pensioners and the poorest in our society who find themselves in fuel poverty because of this surcharge.



The Solar Farm developer stated that the site near Bridgerule would look like lavender fields. Some Lavender Fields!!



A landscape of Wind Turbines viewed from Torrridge and West Devon

Wind Farm Propaganda

Be aware that not all you hear or read about the fantastic benefits of wind turbines are true. Recently, there was a two page advertisement in the Guardian to the effect that an “Historic Event“ had occurred in that after the Didcot Power Station Fire, Britain had been saved from blackouts by Wind Turbines contributing a record 25% of all the electricity we were using. On examination, it soon became apparent that in fact this figure was reached at 05.30 in the morning when the demand for electricity was at its lowest and during the remainder of that very windy day, the maximum percentage reached was in fact 14%, and this amount is a very exceptional occurrence on a very windy day. In fact, what had really kept our lights on during that day was that several other major coal and gas fired power stations stayed operating longer than planned whilst wind farms in Scotland were actually having to be paid to go offline because their excessive output was causing problems to the national grid.

For that very brief moment early in the morning, when all 5,500 wind turbines were contributing 25% of our power, was not only highly untypical, but also served yet again to highlight the real problem with wind: that it fluctuates so wildly and unpredictably from one extreme to the other. Another typical day at 4-30 in the afternoon, wind contributed less than 2% when coal and gas were supplying 74% with 6% more imported from France and Holland. When the celebrated Wind Farm in the Thames Estuary was to be announced, it was decided to do it from Reading’s celebrated Green Park and was to be powered entirely by the electricity generated by the most famous turbine in the country, the one located beside the M4 near Reading. Sure enough, there was no wind on the announcement day and not enough electricity was being generated by the turbine, forcing the BBC to rely on the nasty CO2 emitting diesel generator on standby. Yet it is on these unreliable Wind Turbines that our Energy Secretary, Ed Davey, has centred Britain’s entire future energy policy.

What the Papers Say .

The Telegraph

Wind Farms need to cover the whole of Wales to supply one sixth of the UK’s energy needs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/windpower/3500971/Wind-turbines-would-need-to-cover-Wales-to-supply-a-sixth-of-countrys-energy-needs.html>

Environmental effect of wind farms overstated.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/windpower/3867232/Promoters-overstated-the-environmental-benefit-of-wind-farms.html>

