

Communities Against
Reagill & Sleagill Turbines

Alert

**Britain's wind farms stopped working
during the recent cold snap
owing to a lack of wind!**

No 4 – February 2010

carst

Local Update Meetings

Sleagill Chapel

Monday 8 February 7.30 to 8.30pm

Reagill Village Hall

Tuesday 9 February 7.30 to 8.30pm

Come along for an update on
the proposed wind plant

See the view from your house

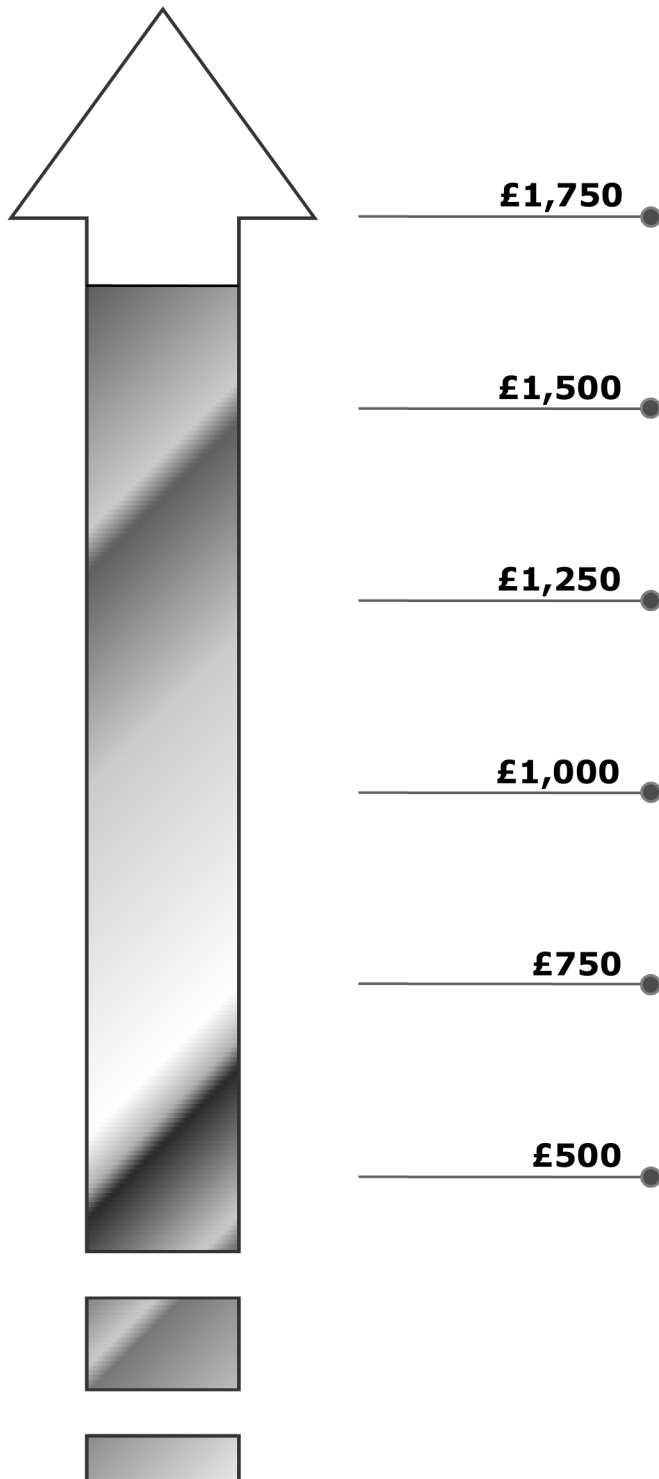
See the destruction of our local environment

Find out why Wind is not the solution



Thanks for your contributions

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed. CARST are aiming to raise £2,000 towards a working fund to cover initial legal advice, noise & access research, local communication, and web development



Help to stop the wind turbines – have your say on National Park extension!

If our area was in a National Park, it's very unlikely that a wind power development would be allowed. The current Natural England proposal for National Park extension to the Orton Fells omits Sleagill and Reagill, despite the Friends of the Lake District recommendation in 2005 to include us.

CARST members believe that our area of limestone country is of sufficient landscape value to be included in a National Park. We're sure you agree! Please take a few minutes to respond to Natural England's consultation, and urge them to extend the boundary northwards.

Closing date for replies is 17 March. Go to <http://lakestodaleslandscapes.org.uk/> for details of the plans, local meetings, and a response form, phone 0300 060 2178, or ask a CARST committee member for further details.

February 27 2010

Winter Blues? Banish them!

Come and join us for a traditional Cumbrian supper and an evening of fun and games!

Morland Village Hall - 7.30pm
BYO Drink, Cutlery and Crockery
Tickets £8 each
Call 01931 714356 or 714071

Wind farms produced 'practically no electricity' during Britain's cold snap

Extracts from an article published in *The Telegraph* 11 January 2010

By Rowena Mason

The cold weather has been accompanied by high pressure and a lack of wind, which meant that only 0.2pc of a possible 5pc of the UK's energy was generated by wind turbines over the last few days. Jeremy Nicholson, director of the Energy Intensive Users Group (EIUG), gave warning that this could turn into a crisis when the UK is reliant on 6,400 turbines accounting for a quarter of all UK electricity demand over the next 10 years.

He said the shortfall in power generated by wind during cold snaps seriously undermined the Government's pledge on Friday to build nine major new wind "super farms" by 2020.

"If we had this 30 gigawatts of wind power, it wouldn't have contributed anything of any significance this winter," he said. "The current cold snap is a warning that our power generation and gas supplies are under strain and it is getting worse." Coal stations are currently used as back-up generation when there is a surge in demand for gas and the wind does not blow – which both tend to happen during cold weather.

Horstead, a risk analyst for energy consultant Utiyx, said current plans to build 30 gigawatts of wind farms could have serious consequences for the security of the UK's energy supply in harsh weather conditions. "This week's surge in demand for energy in response to the cold weather raises serious concerns about the UK's increased reliance on wind power," he said. "We need to ensure that energy can be quickly accessed in times of peak demand through improved gas storage and investment in clean-coal and nuclear power stations. "Failure to address these concerns could mean further rationing of energy in future years and could even lead to black-outs, so it is vital that the UK Government takes action now to avoid the lights going off." Last week, National Grid was forced to issue two warnings about gas supply as demand surged to a record high, forcing it to ask 95 companies to turn off their pipelines.

How many wind farms are required to replace a conventional power station?

Here are the facts: One single combined-cycle gas-fired power plant of 1000 Mw capacity, relatively clean in relation to the emission of greenhouse gases, and not built on pristine landscapes, normally and reliably produces 800 Mw at all times, day and night, year-round without interruption. To produce the same amount of electricity using wind turbines, which on a yearly basis work at 30% of their capacity due to the fluctuating nature of the wind, you need: 2,666 wind turbines of 1 Mw capacity each, or 1,333 wind turbines of 2 Mw capacity each.

Any of these numbers 2,666 or 1,333 - involves degrading considerable countryside with obtrusive 300 to 500 foot structures, their associated tension lines, their access roads, their irremovable rock-embedded concrete bases, their electric transformer sub-stations, etc. A wind plant on average may have 25 turbines, we are talking about 106 or 52 wind power plants, respectively - to produce the same amount of electricity as one single gas-burning plant wisely built in an industrial zone.

So the first negative effect of using this renewable energy is to multiply the number of industrial plants by anywhere from 52 to 106 times. The second is to erect these industrial structures in heretofore-preserved landscapes, because wind turbines are normally established where the wind blows strongest: on highly-visible hill-tops, mountain slopes or shore lines. There, they stand to be seen from at least 20 miles around on a clear day. Meaning that a single wind plant has the potential of degrading the scenery of 400 square miles (20 miles x 20 miles). Multiply this by 52, or 106, plants and you may affect 20,800, or 42,400 sq miles of countryside for an amount of electricity you could produce with a single conventional plant built out of sight. To compare this with something tangible: The UK covers an area of 94,251 sq miles.

Source: www.john-daly.com/windfarm/index.htm (figures updated)



Some interesting facts about the proposed wind turbines

- The site is [REDACTED] between the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales National Park and Northern Pennines, presenting a massive visual intrusion for every local person and visitor
- Huge 10 metre roads will be carved into the local hillside for access, destroying the stone walls, hedgerows, verges and the very character of the landscape
- 1,000s of tonnes of concrete will be poured for each base, disrupting the limestone below, [REDACTED]
- The construction of the 13 concrete bases (excluding the use of construction equipment) alone will result in the release of nearly 5,000 tonnes of CO₂, based on the weighted average 0.83 t CO₂ /t. Cement production generates more carbon emissions than any other industrial process.
- The proposed turbines are 45 metres taller than those at Lambrigg (Junction 37 – M6) and, unlike Lambrigg, will be on the skyline
- Each turbine will receive an estimated £236,000 in government subsidies per annum, [REDACTED] – wind generated energy is [REDACTED] dearer than conventional power
- Each rotor will have a diameter of 82 metres, the length of an average football pitch
- Each blade will require a truck 47 metres long for delivery, over 3 times longer than a normal articulated truck
- Over 5,000 additional HGV movements are expected during the construction period, or 192 per week, putting a huge strain on the local infrastructure
- No long term local employment will be created, and the turbines will be manufactured abroad
- The wind farm 'claims' to generate 26 megawatts of capacity, but will ordinarily struggle to deliver [REDACTED] energy [REDACTED] when it's most needed, such as during the recent cold spell
- For the installed wind power capacity of 26 megawatts, 90% back up (23.4 mW) will be required. This is from conventional power stations [REDACTED] thus negating any claimed carbon savings

CARST was established in June 2009 by the local parishes to oppose the proposed development. Register online at www.carst.info for updates or contact Allister (01931 715191), Jason (07921 499137), Rosemary (01931 714071), John (01931 714456), Tom (07968 342425)

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