

Press Release 005

Residents Against the Windfarm

Cumulative Effect

In our Summary of Objections (Press Release 003) we listed 15 objections to the proposal. Since then we have provided detailed submissions to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on 13 of these and the remaining two will follow shortly.

We have now written to DECC, concerning the cumulative effect of these 15 objections, as follows.

Two of our objections occur frequently in wind farm applications:

- **Landscape Character** is a major issue here. A major Ordnance Survey viewpoint is severely compromised and the proposal directly contravenes the policies of two highly-relevant SPDs.
- Loss of **Residential Amenity** is uniquely serious here. England's second-largest onshore wind farm would be positioned within 2km of 6,000 houses. An unprecedented number of houses would be in very close proximity to turbines and many would suffer great loss of residential amenity. The occupants of two farmhouses on the marsh would be living in a wind farm landscape.

The following issues occur in some wind farm applications but in this case all three apply:

- **Green Belt** This application is 100% within a prime area of Green Belt with a very clear purpose. It is emphatically not a remote area on the margins of the Green Belt.
- **Wildlife Habitat** This application is severely detrimental to a Ramsar Site / SPA / SSSI and a Grade "A" SBI. The RSPB and Natural England have objected.
- **Heritage Assets** The setting of an ancient monument, several conservation areas, a registered park and garden, and numerous listed buildings are adversely affected. All are within 2km of the wind farm and many have a very clear view because of the rising ground. The National Trust has objected.

Each of the above five objections represents a very serious problem and taken together these five alone are damning. However the proposal also raises five additional issues which are much less common but equally critical:

- **Television Reception** Due to the unusual topography this is a very difficult location for television reception. The BBC Wind Farm Tool says that over 16,000 houses would be affected. This is unprecedented.
- A **Contaminated Land** issue sufficient to warrant a Channel 4 "Dispatches" programme.
- **Liverpool John Lennon Airport** The proposal poses major issues for the radar system at one of the UK's largest regional airports.

- **Major Hazard Plants and Industrial Plumes** are serious health and safety issues which have seldom, if ever, been encountered before in the UK in a wind farm application.

Beyond these five additional issues there are further adverse effects due to:

- **Noise**
- **Loss of Public Amenity**
- **Shadow Flicker**
- **Socio-economic Impact**

The cumulative effect of these 14 issues is catastrophic. Whilst appreciating the national importance of moving towards the generation of electricity from renewable sources we make two comments:

- The two approved incinerators within 5km of Frodsham will satisfy 77% of the 2020 target for the whole of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington.
- The low average wind speed over the proposal site and the reduction in efficiency because of the close turbine spacing would produce a highly inefficient wind farm with an average output of about 13MW (22% of capacity).

There is no way that such a small renewables contribution can justify inflicting such a catastrophic list of adverse impacts on the local community.

The application is not justified.

The adverse imbalance is so great that a public inquiry is not warranted.

The application should be refused.

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