

Creakes Action for Protecting the Environment

WIND FARM

Details have emerged of plans for an industrial turbine complex to be built in South Creake and part of North Creake. It will stretch from Bloodgate Hill in South Creake to the borders of Stanhoe, and from North Creake to the borders of Syderstone. Initially proposed at 30 turbines it will be the largest on shore wind farm in England, measuring some three miles wide and a mile deep.

Whatever your views on climate change and the causes of global warming, most people now agree that we ought to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels like oil and gas. So we should be considering all sources of renewable energy. Wind power is being pushed very hard by the government, but is it really the best long term choice for the future? There are other renewables which could be far more productive without causing the huge detrimental change to our landscape and quality of life.

Inefficiency and Subsidies

Onshore turbines only generate electricity for 20% at most - equivalent to one day in every five. Offshore, in the sea, they can generate electricity for 30% to 34% of the time. Is that not the most sensible place for them to be? But the wind companies are prepared to put turbines up almost anywhere in order to get their hands on the huge government subsidies available for renewable energy. In fact, wind farms only make one third of their profits from the actual generation of energy. The other two thirds come from subsidies *paid for by you*.

Visual Impact

There would be a devastating impact on our stunning landscape. The site is initially to have 30 turbines, each one 127metres high (412 feet). That is equivalent to 30 forty storey office blocks stretching three miles across and one mile deep, towering over the surrounding villages of South Creake, North Creake, Stanhoe and Syderstone. It will be visible from over 25 miles away. Do we really want to let them do this to our beautiful countryside?

Local Jobs

All the turbines and associated equipment are manufactured abroad and the power companies have their own construction teams, who tour the world going from one site to another. The wind farm will not provide any local jobs. On the other hand tourists flock to Norfolk for the peace and quiet, the beauty of the countryside, but will they want to come to the area if it has become an industrial complex ? Tourism supports jobs in local B&Bs, hotels, pubs, restaurants and local attractions. Additionally holiday homes provide income for gardeners, cleaners, builders and general workers, but will they stay ? How many local jobs will be lost as a result of the wind farm ?

Wildlife

The North Norfolk coast is host to over a hundred thousand pink foot geese every winter season. They roost on the coast overnight and forage and feed on the fields around the Creakes and Stanhoe, as they do all along the inner coastal strip. The tips of the turbines blade travel at speeds up to 180mph. Imagine the carnage if a flock of several thousand geese should lift off a nearby fields and fly straight into the turbine blades. Raptors are also at risk. This area is rich in hawks, harriers and owls, indeed some of the rarest species of harrier may be seen in the area - it is a twitcher's paradise. The area is also rich in bats, which are known to be badly affected by turbines.

Noise and Health

There are widespread registered complaints about noise from wind farms in the UK, but local councils are unable to take any action. The government knows that wind farms are noisy, and has changed the planning rules to allow much higher noise levels from turbines than from any other industrial site. The noise may be unbearable but it is legal. People living close to wind turbines describe it as a low frequency booming rhythmic beat which is especially bad at night - closing windows has little effect on the penetrating noise which is as much felt as heard. We live in a wonderfully quiet area - the traffic noise we do have stops at night. Wind farm noise does not stop at night.

Shadow Flicker

This is what happens when the sun is low in the sky and the sunlight shines through the turning blades. It is like driving down a country lane when the sun is shining through a bare hedge at the side of the road. It is disorientating, annoying and can cause fits in those who suffer from epilepsy.

Property Values

If you own your home it could be devalued by up to 20% and be difficult to sell. These are facts from a survey by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Construction

We face nearly two years of road chaos. Each turbine requires 50 ready mix truck loads of concrete - enough to fill 3 double decker buses - and all 50 loads have to be applied to the turbine under construction in a single day - that amounts to 1500 lorry loads for the concrete alone. Additionally the turbine blades are delivered as a single casting measuring 151 foot in length and so in addition, there will be 90 of these exceptional loads. Many local roads will have to be "improved" for these enormous vehicle loads.

What can you do to help?

Creakes Action for Protecting the Environment (CAPE) is a group of local people dedicated to saving our countryside and protecting the environment from this unwelcome development. More information, including maps of the site, together with contact information, is available from our web site at the internet address below. Here are some actions which you can undertake now:

Write to Henry Bellingham MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Make your Parish Councillors aware of how you feel.

**Make a donation to the fighting fund, cheques payable to C.A.P.E., may be sent to:
The Treasurer, 34 Back Street, South Creake, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 9PG**

Sign up as a supporter to help us with the campaign, complete the on-line form at:

www.creakesaction.com