

GLARE

GALLOWAY LANDSCAPE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

www.glare.org.uk

Visit our website

or write to

GLARE PO Box 7479

Castle Douglas DG7 3WX

energy@glare.org.uk

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 06

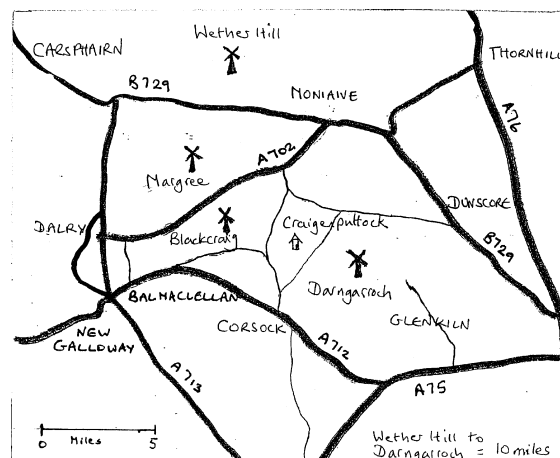
SOUTHERN UPLANDS WIND TURBINE WAY?'

'Dumfries & Galloway could be under pressure for a greater concentration of wind farms due to easier grid access This approach could mean that areas such as the Southern Uplands could be sacrificed to large wind farms in order to save other areas'. D&G Council response to SPP6 (19.09.06)

A quick look at the map of the Southern Uplands Way to check on existing and proposed wind farm developments shows that it is already set to become Southern Uplands Wind Turbine Way.

Our Council had the good sense and courage to take on SNH and the Scottish Executive to defend the glorious landscape around Moffat in the Harestanes Inquiry earlier this year and they are clearly aware of the threat to our local landscape if the mad dash for wind continues while the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) still encourages developers to take the cheap and profitable wind turbine option.

Please write to your MSP/MP/Councillors, asking them to call on the Scottish Executive to rescind RO (Scotland) NOW!



HERITAGE UNDER THREAT

The first home of Jane and Thomas Carlyle, Craigenputtoch, in the wild open countryside between Corsock and Dunscore, is under threat from giant wind turbines proposed at Blackcraig, Darngarroch and Margree, while the wind farm at Wether Hill is already being built.

It was at Craigenputtoch that Thomas Carlyle published his first works attracting international attention from people like Goethe and Ralph Waldo Emerson, who just turned up at his door to meet his hero. People still turn up unannounced today but new owner Colin Carter-Campbell welcomes them whenever they arrive and hopes with the aid of the Carlyle Craigenputtoch Circle, the Carlyle Society and academics worldwide to make Craigenputtoch a centre for study celebrating its remoteness and tranquillity untouched in 200 years.

Carlyle Craigenputtoch Circle held its inaugural meeting on June 6th to celebrate with visiting academics from the USA and the UK, the arrival of Thomas and Jane at Whitsun 1828. Professor Rodger Tarr spoke about the international significance of Carlyle's seminal work, written at Craigenputtoch, '*Sartor Resartus*' and local University of Glasgow, Crichton, academic Dr Ralph Jessop offered insights into the very public private life of Thomas and Jane which was chronicled in letters still being edited at Edinburgh University by Dr Liz Sutherland and her team who were also present at the event.

Local interest in the Carlyles prompted the setting up of the Carlyle Craigenputtoch Circle, which has plans to celebrate Thomas' birthday, December 4th, with a special session with guest speakers and lunch to be held at Corsock Village Hall on Saturday, December 2nd 10.00am -3.00pm

Beginning at 10.00am after coffee intelligence specialist Professor John Chapman will speak on 'Carlyle and State Censorship' and Dr Ralph Jessop of Glasgow University Crichton Campus will speak on 'Carlyle and Scottish Thought'. After a break for a light lunch there will be an opportunity to visit Craigenputtoch for those interested in viewing Carlyle's study and the grounds.

For further details please call 01644 420812

Please reserve me places at the Carlyle Craigenputtoch Circle Celebratory Lunch on December 2nd at Corsock Village Hall. Please provide vegetarian options. I enclose a donation of £5 for each place made payable to: Carlyle Craigenputtoch Circle

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Scottish Energy Policy: Do We Need a Radical Rethink?

- As is well known, the Executive is pledged to meet electricity generation targets from renewables of 18% by 2010, 40% by 2020, and according to a recent policy statement by the current energy Minister Nichol Stephen, a possible 100% of electricity generation by 2050. These are extremely ambitious targets, and do not appear to engage sufficiently with the realities and difficulties of providing electrical energy *in response to consumer need*. Most renewables, with the exception of biomass and to some extent tidal systems, cannot generate electricity on demand, and therefore have a very low 'capacity credit' (the degree to which they can replace conventional stations). For example, regardless of the amount of wind power in Scotland, we will still need firm capacity equivalent to the 6,000 MW peak demand (plus approx. 10%) if we are to be independent.
- *'The Renewables Obligation (Scotland) scheme has been successful but in a single direction - that of promoting onshore wind power. It has raised concerns over the merits of wind power and has not stimulated other renewables generating technologies to a significant degree.'* Enterprise & Culture Committee 6th Report (2004) - *Renewable Energy in Scotland*
- In June this year in a report commissioned by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's leading energy experts warned us

that a shortfall in local electricity generation could result power supply interruptions in 2015. Currently Scotland exports more than 35% of the electricity it generates but the phased retirement of nuclear and coal-fired generating stations between now and 2015 means that Scotland must construct a portfolio capable of meeting all demands, including the peak demand of 6,000 MW.

- *'Wind farms can play a role in reducing global warming emissions. But there is a very real danger that, in the enthusiasm to embrace clean technology, legitimate concerns about noise are being brushed aside. There is no doubt that some existing wind farms are causing real noise problems. This report has stopped short of arguing that those turbines should be shut down, though that possibility should never be ruled out. However, it would be quite unacceptable to our fellow citizens for this situation to be replicated in other parts of the country as new turbines come on stream. But this need not be the case. The positive conclusion of this report is that there is a constructive way forward. It simply requires sensible siting of the new wind farms. It's all about 'location, location, location'. It is in the interests of the wind power industry, environmental groups and local communities for us to get that right.'* John Stewart, *Location, Location, Location*, UK Noise Association
- *"The £30,000 million cost of subsidising windfarms across the country is likely to be met by*

customers." Sir Donald Miller, former Chairman of Scottish Power, giving evidence at Corlic Hill Public Inquiry, 2005.

- *'Our view is that the changes [in planning law and guideline in SPP6] will make it easier for developers to get the plans for big wind farms through.'* Helen McDade, Policy Officer, John Muir Trust, *Scotland on Sunday*.
- *'Even Councils such as ours which support onshore electricity generation from wind turbines will find themselves in increasing difficulty in approving schemes in the right places but refusing proposals that are inappropriate and getting support for that from the Inquiry Reporter's Unit on appeal.'* (Private communication from a Scottish Director of Planning)
- Perhaps onshore wind power has a role in Scotland, but we have to ask ourselves whether we are now at the limit of what is technically and environmentally acceptable to the land and all its inhabitants. Let's consider the facts: operational, under construction or consented onshore wind farm capacity in Scotland in September 2006 stands at some 2,087 MW. There are projects with a capacity of 4,651 MW submitted to the Scottish Executive or known to them and a further 2,126 MW at scoping stage. It is also well known in the industry that some 17,000 MW of wind projects (more than is currently installed in Germany) has revealed its existence by applying to NGT for grid connection. This is development activity on a scale which is simply incredible for such a small country. In order to accommodate even a fraction of

the in-channel developments it will be necessary to dramatically expand the Scottish grid and the interconnectors with England. And in spite of all that we would still not, in all probability, be independent of England, and would rely on English supplies at times of low wind.

- There is a limit to the amount of non-firm generation that Scotland can reasonably accommodate, and it is clear that we are already at that limit, if not already beyond it.
- The question is whether current policies are sufficiently well designed and technically sound to bring about solutions. Unfortunately, the distinction between energy and power is only weakly grasped by many decision makers, and consequently GLARE believes that current policy is flawed, risk prone and exposes Scotland to environmental and financial costs that are unacceptable.

*'But human bodies are sic
fools
For a'their colleges and
schools
That when nae real ills perplex
them
They make enow themselves
to vex them'
Robert Burns 'The Twa Dogs'*

Local wind farms - state of play

Please check out our website too!

- **Wether Hill Wind Farm** - consented and being built

- **Blackcraig Wind Farm** - Section 36 and 37- planning applications in, awaiting comment from D&G Council. **Please lobby your councillors**

- **Margree Wind Farm** - local planning application in to D&G Council. Please make your comments known to:
**Operations Manager,
Development Control
D&G Council, 4 Castle St
Castle Douglas DG7 1BE
by 3rd November** and lobby your councillors

- **Darngarroch Wind Farm** - application for mast accepted, awaiting Section 36 planning application notification. **Please lobby your councillors, MSPs, MP etc**

Wanted: An Environmentally Responsible and Effective Energy Strategy for Scotland

Why not help GLARE in our efforts to secure just that!

Name.....

Address.....

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Post Code.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

I enclose a donation made payable to GLARE to continue the defence of our local landscape and to promote sustainable renewable energy technologies.