

Government Survey into Noise from Wind Turbines
(REF: NANR233)

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| Name of wind farm | Far Old Park Farm, Ireleth, Askam-in-Furness (D) | | | | |
| How many complaints were received about this wind farm? | 152 from April 2001 – to date | | | | |
| In what year was each complaint made? (if more than one complaint please list the years) | 2001 – 23 complaints 2002 – 50 2003 – 52 2004 – 9 2005 – 10 2006 – 7 2007 – 1 | | | | |
| Please provide a detailed description of the noise complaint(s): (eg, time of day, wind conditions, description of noise, any other factors that might have contributed to the complaint) THIS INFORMATION IS VERY USEFUL SO PLEASE USE AS MUCH SPACE AS NECESSARY. IF THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE COMPLAINT AND THE COMPLAINTS HAD DIFFERENT CAUSES PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE TABLE FOR THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPLAINT. | <p>Van den Berg effect apparent occasionally early a.m. until after sunrise.</p> <p>The characteristic of the noise - chopping, whoomphing etc. - very noticeable even at levels below 35dBA. An example:- LA90 10 min 34dB, noise judged to be nuisance @ 600m UPWIND of turbines.</p> <p>A consultant considered the nature of the topography i.e. landform sloping downwards from the turbines contributed to the characteristics of the noise.</p> | | | | |
| Do any of the following terms describe the noise that was complained about at this wind farm site? (Please delete Yes or No as applies) | | | | | |
| Swish | YES | Throbbing | NO | ‘train that never gets there’ | YES |
| Swoosh | YES | Thudding | NO | | |
| Ghostly Noises | NO | Thumping | YES | ‘like motion sickness’ | NO |
| Wooh | NO | Pulsating | YES | | |
| Wooh | NO | Whooshing | YES | Whistling | YES |
| Beating | YES | Distant Helicopter | NO | Rhythmical Beat | YES |
| Lapping | NO | Rumbling | NO | Other (please list): | YES |
| Grinding | NO | | | | |

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| Did you visit the home of the complainant? | YES –several complainants | | | |
| Did you visit the wind farm site? | YES | | | |
| Did you hear the noise that was being complained about? | YES | | | |
| Briefly describe the investigation that took place. | Officers visited on request, inc out of hours (when possible) Measurements taken although no ETSU assessment existed for background levels. Operators did agree to pause turbines during nuisance episodes to enable comparative measurements. Highlighted possible exceedances of +5dB over background. | | | |
| Was the wind farm judged to be causing a noise nuisance? | YES | | | |
| What action, if any, was taken? | Co-operation between operators (Powergen) and officers resulted in installation of software control system to pause turbines in known nuisance conditions of wind speed/direction. A “library” of conditions known to produce nuisance was built up but it was arduous and time consuming, involving officer call-outs both in work and non-work hours. The revised parameters were periodically programmed into the control system but often less rapidly than desired. The number of complaints has reduced dramatically since the control system was installed. | | | |
| This project is about Amplitude Modulation of Aerodynamic Noise (AM) which can be described as ‘Wind turbine blade noise which is modulated at blade passage frequency (typically once per second) with a sharper attack and a more clearly defined character than usual blade swoosh. It is sometimes described as being like a distant train or distant piling operations’. Does the noise from this wind farm conform to this description? | YES – like “train in next field”. The noise has also been described as percussive by a consultant. | | | |