

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

Name of wind farm		Mynydd Clogau Wind Farm, Adfa (u)			
How many complaints were received about this wind farm?		One			
In what year was each complaint made? (if more than one complaint please list the years)		2006			
<p>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)</p> <p>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>		<p>The wind farm was commissioned in January 2006 and according to the complainants was only just audible at this point. They made their complaint later in the year that the turbines were now audible and affecting them. Their main complaint was that noise was affecting their enjoyment of their garden and other outdoor spaces. They only occasionally reported being affected by noise within their property, therefore the complaint was restricted to day light hours.</p> <p>The complaints were all associated with periods of low wind speed and probably around and just above cut in. Higher wind speeds were not cited by the complainants as being a particular problem.</p> <p>The complainants talked at length about the monotony of the noise they were experiencing. They described two parts to the noise a swoosh and a mechanical or motor noise which they described as a whine.</p> <p>Although not relevant to any investigations undertaken one potentially contributory factor to the complaint is that the complainants state that they were unaware of the proposed development when they bought their property.</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	NO	Throbbing	NO	'train that never gets there'	NO
Swoosh	YES	Thudding	NO		
Ghostly Noises	NO	Thumping	NO	'like motion sickness'	NO
	NO	Pulsating	NO		
Wooh Wooh	NO	Whooshing	NO	Whistling	NO
Beating	NO	Distant Helicopter	NO	Rhythmical Beat	NO
Lapping	NO	Rumbling	NO	Other (please list):	Mechanical whine + monotonous drone
Grinding	NO				

Did you visit the home of the complainant?	YES				
Did you visit the wind farm site?	YES				
Did you hear the noise that was being complained about?	NO				
Briefly describe the investigation that took place.	<p>The wind farm operator was first requested to demonstrate compliance with his planning condition which in essence had the following wording:-</p> <p>‘ The wind turbine noise level shall not at any time exceed 35dB(A) expressed as LA90_(10mins) at wind speeds not exceeding 10m/s at all houses existing at the time of the development , except at the complainants property where a level not to exceed 35dB(A) expressed as LA90_(10mins) at wind speeds not exceeding 6m/s and a level of 37.5dB(A) thereafter up to 10m/s.’</p> <p>Measurements were undertaken by noise consultants acting on behalf of the operator, between 31st July and 22nd August 2006, which demonstrated compliance with the planning condition. The report also concluded that no tonal penalties need be applied to levels recorded.</p> <p>The complainants then requested that a Statutory Nuisance Investigation be carried out, which was to be based on a more subjective approach. One visit was made in October at the complainant’s request however they reported that the noise level had reduced by the time I reached their property.</p> <p>At this point the complaint was effectively withdrawn as the complainants reported that noise was not a problem in the winter months, due to increased background levels</p> <p>The complainant has stated their intention to complain again next year at the point at which they allege that they will be affected by noise from the site.</p>				
Was the wind farm judged to be causing a noise nuisance?	NO				
What action, if any, was taken?	<p>The wind farm operator demonstrated compliance with the planning conditions set against the site.</p> <p>The statutory nuisance investigation was begun, however the complaint was effectively withdrawn by the complainants.</p> <p>No formal action was taken against the site as Nuisance was not proved.</p>				

<p>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?</p>	<p>NO – I don’t believe that it does. Although I did not actually witness the noise I have had extensive conversation with the complainants and the noise that they complained about did not match this description.</p>

Apologies for the delay in response, please find attached response to questionnaire. This response relates to one of two windfarms that have received complaints against them.

I have not reported complaints received from the other windfarm which is the Penrhydllan and Llidiartywaun wind farm site, also they were a number of years ago. This was a very early wind farm site and the complaints arose as a result of problems with the wind turbine design which was acknowledged and rectified by the site operators at the time.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me

regards