

Rozel Cottage
Warleggan
Near Bodmin
Cornwall
PL30 4HB

6th August 2012

Regarding: **PA12/05060 and the applicant is SJ Smeeth and Sons at Bofindle Farm**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to protest AGAINST the proposed wind turbine at Bofindle Farm since it contravenes critical policies:

The wind turbine will be located well within a designated **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**, thus contravening **Policy CL6**, as well as being within an **Area of Great Scientific Interest**, thus contravening **Policy C18**. Other provisions of **Policies REN1 and REN2** will as a consequence not be met. REN2 says, *'AONBs, HC, SSSIs, NNRs, SAM and best and most versatile agricultural land, wind turbines and wind farms will only be permitted if the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the specific features or qualities which justified such designation.'* **No site-specific ecological or bird survey has been carried out although the turbine will be located in an Area of Great Scientific Interest.** Only generalised data from very limited sources is provided – the vast body of research showing harmful impacts on wildlife is not cited. See Cornwall Council Guidance Note 3 pp 9,22.

Policy REN2: The planned turbine contravenes the following statement: 'The development must not unacceptably detract from the visual amenity of landscapes that make an important contribution to the setting of towns or villages', as well as **REN1:** *'The proposal must not have an unacceptable impact on the character and appearance of the immediate and wider landscape, and of areas of natural, cultural, historical or architectural interest.'*

Planning Policy Statement 1: *'Any development, including wind turbines, must prove sustainable economic development, with social cohesion and inclusion, the protection and enhancement of the environment and prudent use of natural resources'.*

- Even according to the application, the wind turbine is only *'reasonably necessary to reduce farm operating costs ... The intention is to utilise the generated electricity on-site.'* This is not what is meant by sustainable economic development nor is it a prudent use of natural resources. Other forms of renewable energy should be urgently considered by the applicant.
- No new jobs or community benefits will be created by the turbine, thus failing to meet Cornwall County Council Guidance Note 3 (p.41).
- The wind turbine will provide the electricity needs of only one farm business. This cannot be what is meant by sustainable economic development since local tourist businesses – 13 in the parish – are likely to be destroyed by the turbine. Tourists really and truly do not come to such quiet and beautiful locations to see wind turbines.

- The wind turbine is too tall at over 46 metres (13 storeys)! It will dominate the landscape and all housing, none of which is more than two storeys high. This does not protect or enhance the environment!
- The turbine will be highly visible: According to the planning application, *'The 'off-white' colour of the turbine tower and blades and green colour of the kiosk will help the structure to blend in with the landscape ... The proposed location ensures that the turbine is approximately 400m from the nearest non-involved resident and will have trees and hills as a backdrop when viewed from within the village of Mount'*(i.e. it will not blend in being off-white!). It cannot be said to enhance the local environment.
- A large number of people within the parish are against the turbine on business, visual, property price etc grounds. Only one person will benefit – the applicant. This is not what is meant by social cohesion!
- **Cumulative Impact Criteria have not been defined locally despite localism policies.** See Cornwall Plan.

Furthermore, the applicant has not conducted an **Environmental Impact Assessment** although the turbine is over 15 metres high, nor has he informed the **Ministry of Defence** as per the guidance of Cornwall County Council for turbines over 11 metres high.

No turbine specific noise data relevant to this site has been produced. Only generalised data from 1997 is given in the application. This contravenes Cornwall Council Guidance Note 3 Appendix 6 point 6! Nor is it clear whether the data provided is relevant to undulating terrain (see Cornwall Guidance Note 3 Appendix 6 point 5).

No specific survey has been submitted to check if **TV and radio waves** will be blocked or deflected – only generalised data regarding mobile phone masts is submitted (Cornwall Council Guidance Note 3 p.39)

Although the applicant has agreed to decommission the wind turbine in 25 years time, it is quite possible that he may have sold the farm by then, or no longer be alive given his current age. It is also quite likely that it may be very hard in any case to enforce decommissioning. For the residents of the parish, this means the next quarter century will be lived in the shadow of this huge turbine and perhaps longer. This is unacceptable!

Finally, it should be noted that the applicant is **planning a second turbine should this one succeed.** It is also likely that other farm businesses in the parish will follow suite should this one be approved, thus changing the character of this very beautiful and remote parish completely.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Cathy Rozel FARNWORTH