SUBMISSION FROM MARK SCOTT

Although I live in the English Lake District I have for the past 35 years spent much of my time visiting and living my family in Elgin, walking and climbing in the Highlands and enjoying the landscape. In recent years this outstanding landscape is incrementally being destroyed by the proliferation of wind farms and their associated paraphernalia of bulldozed tracks, pylons, the destruction of wild life habitats and visual degradation.

It is argued that there is virtually no truly wild county left in Scotland; what we see has been created by man through the ages by the introduction of sheep, deer, grouse, farming and hydro-electricity and forestry. These developments, for good or bad are here to stay; hopefully some will go away once the subsidies stop. Pro wind farm supporters argue that the Highland landscape is already flawed and that the introduction of wind farms will actually enhance the beauty of the Highlands is an argument that holds little ground.

The case for wind farms either financial or environmental reasons and benefit is basically flawed. Remove the financial subsidies and the argument for wind farms collapses. Others, more qualified than I will argue the scientific case against wind farms.

‘Sustainability’, an overused and often misunderstood word is cited as a reason for the development of wind farms. Sustainability will end when the people who visit Scotland, especially the Highlands will see; wherever they stand a wind farm and its associated pylons on the horizon and not return. The introduction of wind farms will reduce CO2 and other greenhouse gasses: there will be less people travelling north! What cost to Scotland then?

Wind farms, if they have any practical use, which I very much doubt should be built close to where the electricity is needed; in the urban landscape not on the slopes of the Highlands.

I never thought that I would agree with Donald Trump on the environment of Scotland but for once he is right, whatever his motives.

Mark Scott.
15 June 2012