



environmental  
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# Where now with Wind Turbine Impact Assessment?

9<sup>th</sup> September, The Thistle Hotel, Birmingham

## PROGRAMME

09.30 Registration and Refreshments

### Session 1: Wind Turbine Applications – What’s Happening?

10.00 Chair’s Introduction

Gwyn Mapp, Bureau Veritas

10.05 Legal Issues in Assessing Wind Turbine Impacts

Stephen Tromans QC, 39 Essex Street

*This presentation will look at the legal and policy issues arising from wind turbine applications, and the potential legal problems and challenges which local authorities may face in dealing with them.*

10.25 Accounting for Uncertainties in the Assessment of Noise from Proposed Windfarms

Graham Parry, Managing Director ACCON UK Limited

*Graham will look at experience in practice of noise impact assessment.*

10.45 Assessment of Potential Noise Impact of a Proposed Enercon E70 Wind Turbine at Princes Soft Drinks, Bradford

Brian Fairclough, Bradford City Council

*Brian Fairclough will describe the methodology employed by Environmental Health to assess the likely noise impact of the wind turbine in the context of currently available national noise assessment guidelines. As a result of Environmental Health's findings, the application was refused by Bradford's Planning Department on the grounds that the wind turbine would have a significant noise impact on people living nearby – a decision upheld at appeal.*

11.05 Questions

11.20 Refreshment Break

### Session 2: Views on Impacts

11.40 Wind Turbines: Low-Frequency Noise & Infrasound Revisited

Malcolm Swinbanks, Applied Mathematician, Acoustician, Consultant Engineer

*It has been argued that low-frequency noise and infrasound from wind-turbines do not represent a significant problem. Malcolm believes that recent methods of assessment have been inadequate, leading to incorrect conclusions. These methods of assessment will be examined, together with alternative information which appears to substantiate the world-wide reports of adverse effects.*

12.05 Why Turbine Noise Annoys – Amplitude Modulation and other things

Dick Bowdler, Noise Consultant

*Subjective reaction to noise is based not only on its level but on its characteristics and on the listener's attitude. Dick will mainly deal with Amplitude Modulation but touch on other factors that seem to make turbine noise more objectionable than other noise.*

**12.30 Questions**

**12.45 Lunch**

## **Session 2 (cont.): Views on Impacts**

**13.40 Chair's Introduction**

Jack Pease, Noise Bulletin

**13.45 Tackling Noise Nuisance from Windfarms - Prevention is better than cure**

Colin Cobbing, Director, ARM Acoustics

*Planning permission cannot authorise statutory nuisance. However, the application of noise nuisance provisions to certain types of windfarm development may be significantly constrained. This presentation describes these constraints and suggests ways of overcoming them.*

**14.05 What Happens When We Get it Wrong – View from a Wind Turbine Neighbour**

Ron Williams

*Ron will detail the problems experienced of living for 3 years less than 900m from a turbine site in North Cumbria. He will describe how his life has been seriously affected and will explain the shortcomings of the site owners/operators and others to assist, or protect his interests.*

**14.20 Questions**

## **Session 3: Group Discussion**

**14.25 Group Discussion**

*Break-out into allocated groups to discuss questions that have arisen in the morning – groups will be cross sector, with a wind farm noise specialist in each.*

**15.05 Refreshment Break**

**15.20 Panel Discussion**

**16.15 Chair's Summing Up**

Jack Pease, Noise Bulletin

**16.30 Close**