



Dispelling Some Wind Myths

- **Turbines are noisy**
Use your experience of being on the wind farm and your recordings to establish an answer.
- **They are ugly**
This is subjective. In surveys, more people like the appearance of wind turbines than dislike them. They can be viewed as elegant symbols of a sustainable future!
- **They use more energy to build than they generate**
Our energy payback was under 1 year - they generated more energy in their first year of operation than was used to manufacture the equipment and in construction
- **They don't make money for investors**
The returns to members are greater than the interest from most bank saving accounts
- **They are harmful to animals especially birds**
RSPB is supportive of wind farms as long as they are not placed in the birds' migration paths. They believe the risk of climate change is greater to birds. At Westmill there have been a few bird strikes, but all structures, including houses cause casualties. Skylarks and lapwings nest and successfully breed on the site.
- **They can interfere with TV reception**
As part of our planning condition we had to undertake a survey of TV interference problems and we found one affected household in Swindon which was easily fixed.
- **Wind power needs back-up, as the wind doesn't blow all the time**
All power sources need back up and Denmark currently has 40% of its electricity delivered from wind each year without causing any problems; in the UK we are currently generate 15% (annual figure for 2014) of our electricity from wind power and so we won't have any worries for years to come. Furthermore, on a windy winter day, 20% more electricity is required.