

CROOK HILL ECO DISASTER



*"Many people live close to these proposed monstrosities and the views that they came here for will be destroyed forever...these are expensive symbols that do little to contribute to our energy supply. A planning system is flawed when it allows such wanton destruction of our valued moorland. United Utilities have submitted a formal objection to the plan. This is because of the impact the turbines will have on the Borough's water supply. Removing so much peat destroys our natural habitat for, in my view, minimal energy."
- Paul Rowen (MP for Rochdale 2005-2010)*

Crook Hill Wind Farm, near Wardle, Rochdale, has been branded an "eco disaster" by a website that claims to expose the ugly truths behind the glossy, airbrushed photos of "clean, green" renewable energy.

The Crook Hill Eco Disaster website (www.crookhillecodisaster.co.uk) accuses those constructing the wind farm of "environmental destruction on an industrial scale", citing evidence of water pollution, toxic emissions, litter, landslides and HGV accidents.

The website also follows the financial trail of Crook Hill Properties (the company formed to manage the wind farm development) back to its registered office in the British Virgin Islands, an offshore tax haven located over 4,000 miles from Crook Hill.



"The visual pollution aspect of it, I can appreciate that. I have a pretty big view from my place here, and I don't know that I'd like to see a lot of windmills." – Jeremy Dearden (Lord Of The Manor Of Rochdale with feudal land rights over Crook Hill, speaking from his home in New Zealand)

Featuring hundreds of close-up photos of the wind farm development, as well as dozens of official planning documents and media articles, the Crook Hill Eco Disaster website offers a never-been-seen-before perspective into the sinister machinations of the wind industry.

Wind farms are criticised heavily by conservationists such as David Bellamy, James Lovelock and Dr Patrick Moore; they are accused of being inefficient and unreliable, killing huge numbers of birds and bats, causing health problems in humans and the loss of acres and acres of CO2 absorbing peat bog. These claims are backed up on the Crook Hill Eco Disaster website, with links to over 60 peer-reviewed scientific studies and research papers.





"People are frankly fed up with so many wind farms being built that won't be necessary. Enough is enough" (David Cameron, Prime Minister)

If construction is completed, Crook Hill Wind Farm will consist of eleven 410 feet tall industrial wind turbines, erected on a fragile Pennine moorland, approximately 1300 feet above sea level and visible for miles around as part of a cumulative wind farm landscape that also includes the wind farms at Scout Moor, Todmorden and Coal Clough.

The original proposal for Crook Hill Wind Farm, put forward by London-based energy corporation Coronation Power, was rejected by Rochdale MBC and only approved in 2009 after appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. The overwhelming victory for the Conservative Party in the 2015 General Election, standing on a "no more wind farms" platform, demonstrates just how poorly the wind industry has performed over the last decade – from heroes to zeroes within ten years!

Crook Hill Wind Farm's notoriety is spreading far and wide, with the ecological destruction being referenced around the world as a textbook example of how bad wind farms are for the environment. The music video for "Ancient Race" by Scottish song-poet Robert Sandison even features images from the Crook Hill Eco Disaster website.

The website's creator visits Crook Hill regularly in order to monitor the progress of the construction, reporting his findings and posting photos of the latest developments. The website has been designed to last as long as the contractors are on Crook Hill. As soon as all traces of the wind farm have been removed and the moors returned to nature, the website will be decommissioned.

"Right here, right now", the website explains, "the site IS an eco disaster, and until such designation is no longer appropriate, that's the description we're sticking with."

The latest incident to occur at Crook Hill involved an HGV carrying a turbine blade being unable to make the steep ascent up the crumbling access track. After a lengthy delay, the wagon had to be towed to safety. The incident follows a number of truck accidents and safety issues to have occurred at the site.



"There seems little point in trying to save the environment from climate change when, by the very act of allowing an inappropriate development of this kind, we destroy the environment we seek to save."

Crook Hill Eco Disaster website:
www.crookhillcodisaster.co.uk

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[Crook Hill Eco Disaster is not-for-profit and unaffiliated with any organisation. Its mission is solely to provide the public with a record of the wind farm's construction and its impacts.]