

Wind farm plans should be blown away

**From: Helen Glancey,
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I was initially disbelieving when recently 'by chance' I heard of the proposals for a massive industrial wind farm, covering an area of around 1.5 miles, near Ripon; surely nobody would possibly consider such a sensitive location. This disbelief turned to stunned horror and anger when a simple internet search under 'wind farm

Ripon' revealed a situation far worse than anyone could ever have imagined; mammoth wind turbines considerably larger than those at Knabs Ridge and a plan to include high pylons, stretching way out across the unspoilt countryside.

The impact of this wind farm would be horrendous, totally dominating and destroying not just the beautiful surrounding countryside and villages

but also the unique distant views across the Vale from many miles around.

What compounds my anger is that wind farms have been constantly discredited as ineffective and grossly expensive, yet the still they keep coming; the same numbers of conventional power stations still have to run 24/7 irrespective of the number of wind farms in operation as the wind does not always blow. I urge readers to register

their opposition by visiting the website of the local campaign group www.freh.org.uk Public apathy will allow this vandalism to happen - a very strong united local voice will hopefully win the day!

■ Are wind farms a good source of energy or a white elephant? Tell the Gazette by e-mailing news@ripon-gazette.co.uk or writing a letter to the editor at 5a Kirkgate, Ripon, HG4 1PA.