

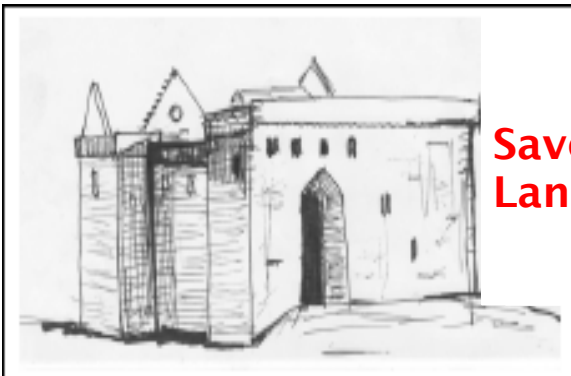


Aim of HAG : To successfully oppose the industrialization of the landscape in the vicinity of historic Hermitage Castle, in the form of the proposed 'Windy Edge' Wind Farm.

Information for the Armstrong Clan

On Tuesday 2nd August at 7.30 pm in the Hermitage Hall, Liddesdale, a well attended inaugural meeting of 'HAG', was held by residents of the local community who intend to oppose the proposal for a giant industrial wind farm by developer 'Infinis plc'. This will consist of 20 turbines, each **125m high**, sited on Braidlie and Sundhope farms, adjacent to historic Hermitage Castle, (Forth Rail Bridge is only 104m high). The process has already begun: much to the dismay of local residents, during the week of 25th July a 70m anemometer or wind mast was erected on Sundhope Farm to gather information on wind speeds, etc...

From the attendees of the meeting an organizing/coordinating committee has been formed. It is their intention to hold a public meeting in the near future inviting those in the wider community around Hermitage to hear the reasons why HAG opposes the wind farm, some of which are detailed below.



Hermitage Action Group (HAG)

Save Hermitage Castle's Iconic Landscape

The great walls of Hermitage Castle rear up stark against its landscape, a brooding reminder of the tumultuous past of this area. Its bulk casts a dark spell over the visitor, transporting the imagination to a time of ancient feuds and bitterly contested rights.

The proposed 'Windy Edge' Wind Farm would flank historic Hermitage Castle and Chapel. The giant turbines would completely dominate the landscape and setting of the Castle and the Reivers' Way. Approaching the Castle by any route the traveller's eye would be drawn again and again to these towering industrial structures. As the Castle came into sight it would be dwarfed, a toy castle, no longer perceived as the massive and forbidding guardhouse of the Border. The birdsong and other natural noises of the landscape would be replaced by "blade swish" – the aerodynamic noise produced as the **sixty** 50m turbine blades rotate.

This wild and attractive landscape, redolent of 800 years of Scottish history must be saved, otherwise what we have all taken for granted will be irretrievably scarred and lost. The historic sites which embody the rich heritage of the Borders are a major attraction to visitors. The atmospheric Hermitage Castle and the Reivers' Way are **key assets** which bring tourists to the Liddesdale area. They bring economic benefits to everyone in the area – to the providers of accommodation, goods and services, and also to others living in the area. They also gain from the level of demand and economic activity which makes it possible to continue to provide public and private services to residents.

A wind farm which impacted on the setting of Hermitage Castle, diminishing and industrialising it, would reduce its attractiveness to tourists. Word gets around and tourists would go elsewhere – there is plenty of competition. No promises of future income to a "Community Trust" could offset the losses to businesses and households. Such income, on the basis of equitability, may be distributed across a wide area of beneficiaries. For example, a radius of 10 miles from the proposed site would include a land area of over 300 square miles, cross county borders and include at least 3 community councils.

The community who reside within the vicinity of the proposed wind farm would be profoundly effected by this development – Hermitage, Whitrope, Steele Road, Shankend, etc... Turbine noise, impacts upon quality of life during the construction phase, depreciation of property values, are just a few of the many problems they may have to live with.

Please Support
Hermitage Action Group (HAG)
c/o Malcolm McGregor (Chairman) To
support HAG >>
contact : malcolm.r mcgregor@btinternet.com