

Castlemilk Wind Park



Castlemilk & Carmunnock Community Wind Park Trust proposes to erect three wind turbines at the Cathkin Braes, Glasgow. The Trust intends that the economic benefits from this installation will be used for community funds administered by a local Trust.

Castlemilk Economic Development Agency (CEDA) commissioned The Airshed to conduct an environmental noise impact assessment for the proposed development. A previous assessment conducted by one of the UK's biggest environmental consultancy had concluded that noise at the nearest receptors would be ~40 dBA LA₉₀ 10 minutes and that, accordingly, a baseline noise survey would be required. (UK Planning Guidance does not require any baseline monitoring where the predicted noise from the turbines is less than 35 dB LA₉₀ 10 minutes at the nearest sensitive receptor).

The feasibility study noise predictions were based on a simple prediction model which tends to over-predict noise impacts. The Airshed used a more complex noise prediction model based on ISO 9613 : 1996 to provide more accurate and realistic predictions for downwind meteorological conditions, where the predicted noise level is seldom exceeded. This confirmed that the highest noise level at any sensitive receptor would be 28 dB LA₉₀ 10 minutes. The predictions took account of local topography and the frequency characteristics of the proposed turbines.

The predictions and methods were agreed with the local Environmental Health Officers prior to formal submission of the planning application and saved the Trust unnecessary expense.

The subsequent assessment indicated that the proposed turbines were highly unlikely to exceed any of the relevant assessment noise criteria relating to nuisance, annoyance or sleep disturbance. Even allowing for the uncertainties in source estimates and model predictions, turbine noise is unlikely to be significant.

