



Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network c/o Middle Bottomley Bottomley Road Todmorden Lancashire OL14 6QZ

Letter to the Guardian in response to Simon Jenkins article in the Guardian July 18th 2025

Simon Jenkins article highlighting the proposed construction of a 41 turbine wind farm on Walshaw Moor in the South Pennines raises some valid points, but he misses the most important one: that we should not be building windfarms on protected peatland, an irreplaceable habitat capable of storing more carbon than tropical rainforest.

Unfortunately omitting this leaves our campaign open to accusations of nimbyism as recent letters have demonstrated, and weakens our case with government. Speaking recently of the peatland during the second reading of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill in the House of Lords, Baroness Willis said of Walshaw Moor "...it has taken 6000 years to grow to where it is now, at its current growth rate, it will take 240 human generations later to see the peatland restored".

It is these long-term unintended consequences of building wind farms on protected peatland which would worsen the climate and nature crisis. Peatland's stored carbon would be released as extensive infrastructure such as access tracks and turbine foundations are constructed, while vulnerable breeding birds species would disappear.

Simon Jenkins describes turbines as "peculiarly intrusive", but these visual effects are fleeting in comparison to the permanent damage which would be wrought if peatlands are seen as the right place to build wind farms, jeopardising the government's objectives to protect and restore nature, and achieve a green transition.

Penny Price

Upper Calderdale Wildlife Network
Part of The Peatland Alliance