

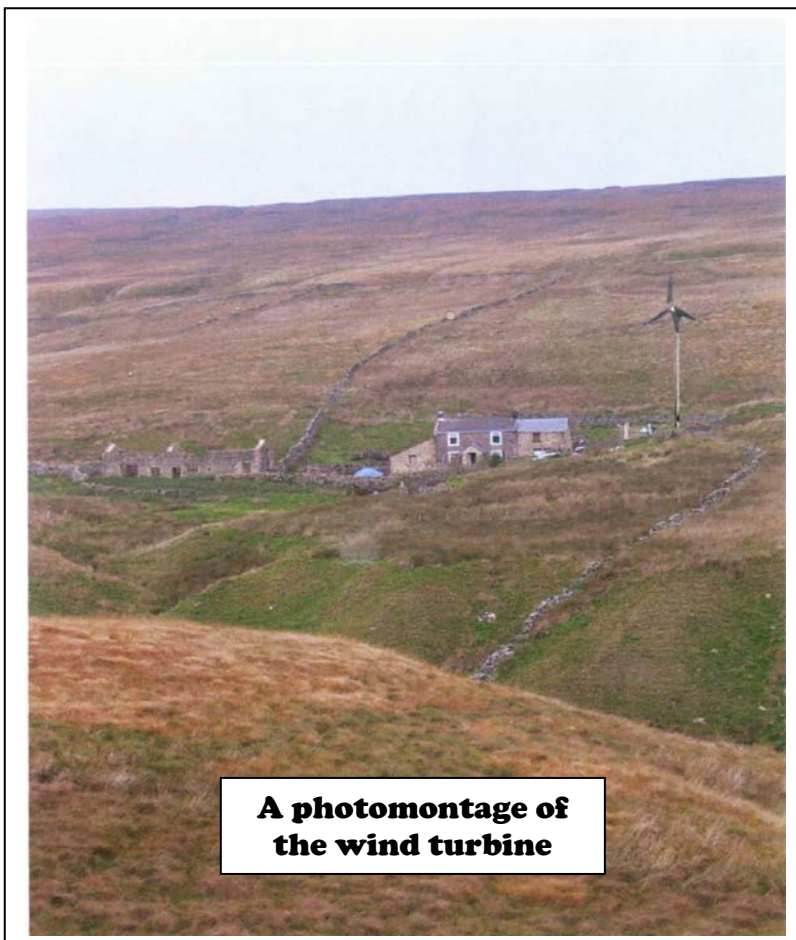


**YORKSHIRE DALES**  
National Park Authority

## **Wind Turbine at Cosh Farm, Foxup, Littondale**

Cosh Farm is an extremely isolated house about 2 miles from the nearest settlement, Foxup, itself a remote place. Cosh Farm lies within Littondale Barns and Walls Conservation Area and open access land. The house has been redundant for many years, with only the occasional use by a youth hostel club. A young couple have recently bought the remote spot to create a family home – even after the sales details described it as a desirable spot for a recluse! The site has no connections to services and is currently served by a generator. Planning permission has already been granted for extensions to the building.

An application has been submitted for a wind turbine measuring just under 18m high to rotor tip. A justification for the scale and siting of the turbine was submitted with the proposal.



The Yorkshire Dales Local Plan (Policy U6) supports small scale renewable energy developments where they will not adversely affect the character of the landscape, settlement or buildings and the development does not adversely affect nature conservation, archaeological, residential or recreational amenity.

The key issues with this proposal are the remoteness and nature of the site in a high quality landscape and, the scale of the turbine. Cosh Farm is positioned in a unique undeveloped landscape, the only structure other than barns and walls for several miles. The turbine will be significantly higher than the house and given the topography of the area there will be views of the turbine in isolation.

There are a number of factors in support of the turbine. The turbine will provide a source of renewable energy; remove or significantly reduce the need for the noisy generator in an otherwise quiet landscape; the backdrop of the turbine is the hillside rather than projecting above the skyline; the turbine would negate the need for the introduction of overhead lines which would otherwise significantly alter an uninterrupted 2 mile stretch of the dale.

The application was the subject of considerable officer debate. It was eventually decided that, whilst the turbine would interfere visually with the sweeping horizontality and 'wildness' of the moorland landscape against which it would be seen, the fact is that this is already impaired by the buildings at Cosh. As such the turbine would not be out of context with its immediate setting comprising those buildings. On this (arguable) basis the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has resolved to approve the application for the turbine, although the permission would be subject to a legal agreement to prevent overhead lines being erected as well.