

Trends in public opinion

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IT'S AN ILL WIND

Protesters accuse firm of dirty tricks

by Yvonne Flynn

THE war of words over plans for a giant wind farm escalated today

Objectors accused the firm behind the development of "dirty tricks". The protesters say that Renewable Energy Systems is diverting the scale of the 14 metre (45ft) turbines which would be sited in the town of Aberdeen.

They claim illustrations provided by RES and published in the Evening Express bear no resemblance to what the 14 wind turbines would look like.

RES admits the picture in the picture - taken at Dun Loat near Edinburgh - are 10 metres shorter than those proposed for Melville Cairn, Netherley.

However, RES insists there was no attempt at trickery or distortion.

In what is fast becoming one of the fiercest planning battles in the North-east, the 14 turbines, around 200 metres of pipeline have already been granted planning permission by Aberdeen City Council.

Fears that from spilling a photograph site to creating air traffic and TV reception problems.



Moody said: "The picture released by RES shows people who measure one set of pylons with a wind turbine supposedly similar to those they intended for Netherley."

"One of the 14 generators proposed for Netherley should be over 40 times taller than a 50ft pylon and, from the picture you might expect an accurate comparative presentation of the wind turbine to be scaled to fit over a foot tall."

"Amazingly the whole wind turbine photograph, plus a lot of green, plus a good many other things for good measure, fit in a space of only one inch."

Ms Moody said the illustration printed in the Evening Express last

week, which showed a turbine towering above St Nicholas House in the heart of Aberdeen, was more accurate.

"Several months ago a better job of getting out that part of the turbine would have been one-and-a-half times the height of St Nicholas House."

But a spokesman for RES said: "The mistake pointed out by the Evening Express was wrong. It was towering 50% over St Nicholas House, the job of the proposed turbine would fit part of the top of the building."

"Our picture was taken at Dun Loat wind farm. There was no trickery."

The full height of the proposed Netherley turbines is 30 metres (100ft) - three feet below the height of St Nicholas House.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Write to Evening Express, Lang Street, Aberdeen AB15 6ED. e-mail: enquiries@express.co.uk

or call 01382 222111

Major storm brews over wind giants

275ft turbines bid sparks fury

by Yvonne Flynn

THE gloves are off in the battle to stop plans for giant wind towers at North-east beauty spot.

The proposal could see 14 wind turbines 275ft high - one-and-a-half times the height of Aberdeen's St Nicholas House - built at Melville Cairn, near Netherley.

Objectors say that if the scheme goes ahead, the presence of the towers will bring echoes of the sci-fi movie 'War of the Worlds'.

They claim the turbines will be seen from between 20 to 50 miles away, and because they will be built on a ridge, will tower up to 460ft above nearby homes.

The protesters are now upping their fight against developers Renewable Energy Systems

Deeside Road by distracting drivers.

- Bring on migraines and affect those with epilepsy due to the flicker from the spinning blades.
- Subject residents to a constant whirring noise.
- Have safety implications for aircraft due to the site's close proximity to the flightpath.

Damage the resale value of neighbouring houses.

These will be. A public hearing in March where the objectors and Renewable Energy Systems will put across their cases, and a decision will be made by Aberdeenshire Council in the summer.

Mr Davidson is urging the council to throw out the proposal.

He said: "We could see an industrial monstrosity inflicted on a beautiful part of the countryside without regard to those living in the area."

"Fourteen of these great metal lumps will create a domination of the site which some have likened to the robot on legs in 'War of the Worlds'."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
 Write to Evening Express, Lang Street, Melville Cairn, Aberdeen AB15 6ED. e-mail: enquiries@express.co.uk

THE BRITISH
WIND ENERGY

ASSOCIATION

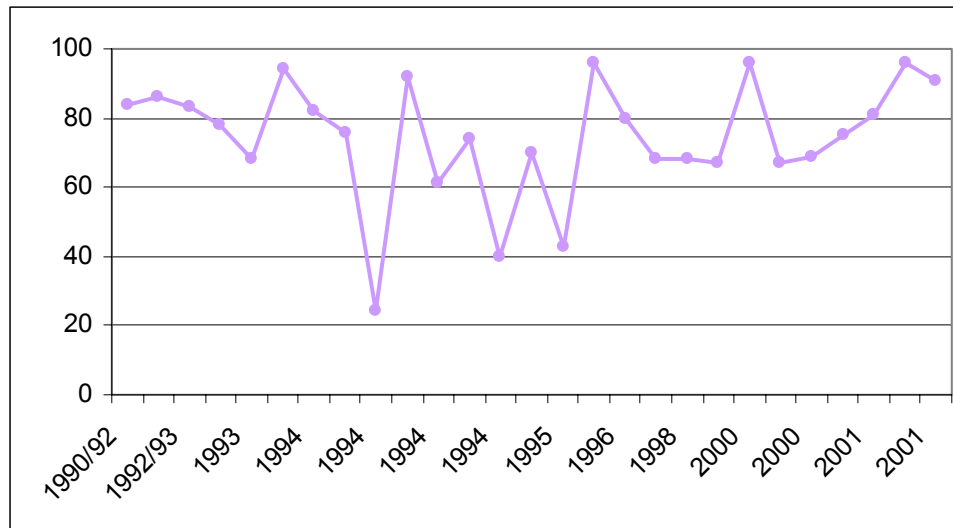
Public attitude surveys

10 years experience

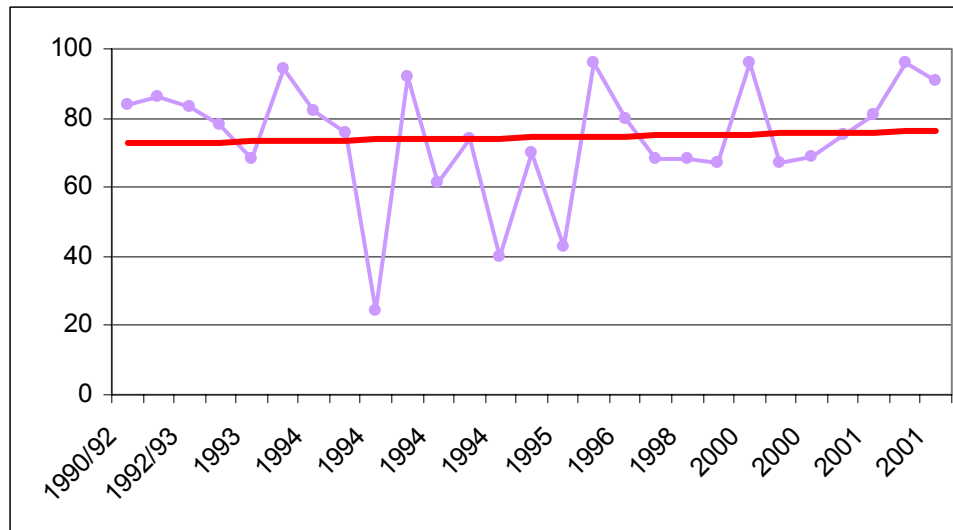
27 surveys

Same result?

Support for wind energy



Support for wind energy



It's true ...

74%

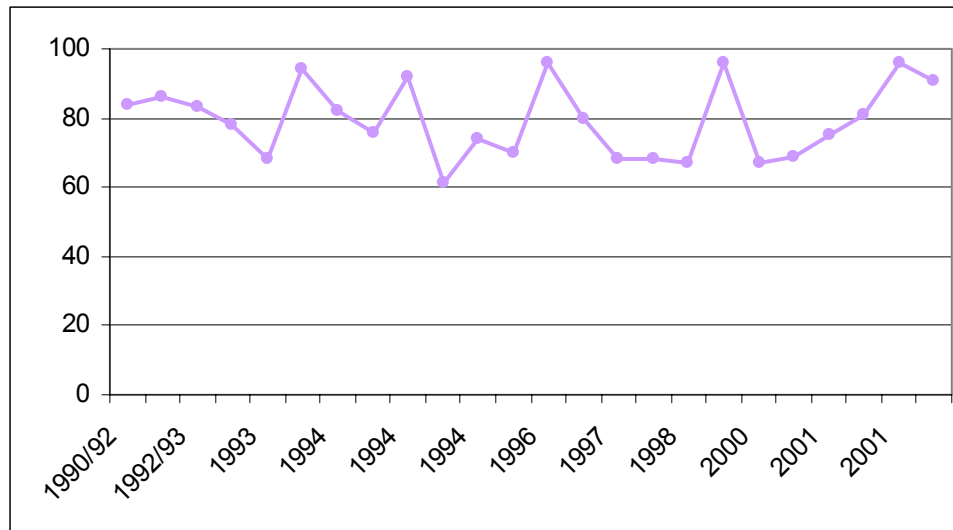
of people are in favour of wind energy

Anomalies in trend?

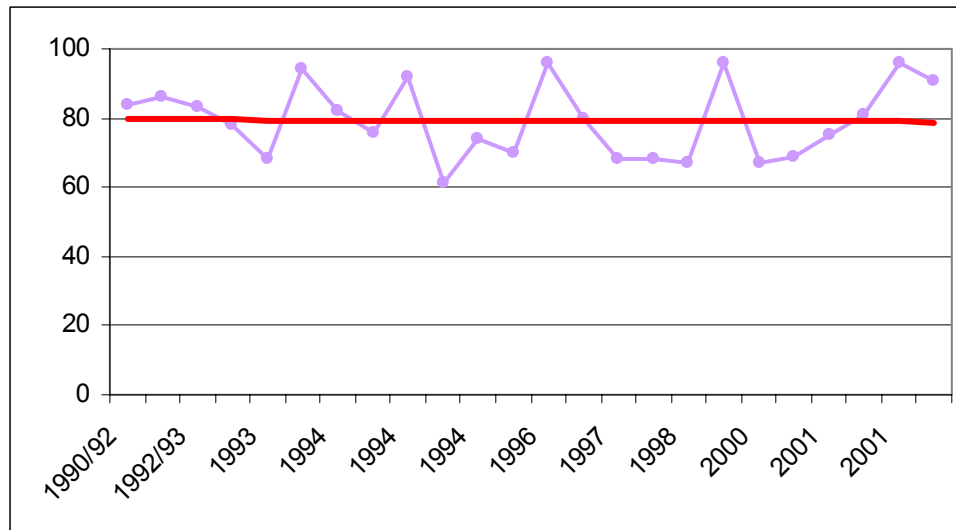
Mynydd yr Hendre only 24% in favour?

- Survey conducted by opposition group
- compromised by the respondents being sent 'Fact sheets' prepared by the opposition group prior to being interviewed

Corrected %age support



Corrected %age support



It gets better ...

79%

of people are in favour of wind energy

Common fears

Spoil the scenery

Noise nuisance

House prices

Effects on tourism

Planet Ark Environmental News: Ad ruling gives UK wind power industry a boost - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Ad ruling gives UK wind power industry a boost

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UK: August 2, 2001

LONDON - Britain's advertising watchdog gave the country's fledgling wind power industry a morale boost yesterday in ordering a Scottish community group to stop running misleading ads about the impact of wind farms.

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Common features

Before and after surveys show:

- General shift in attitude towards the positive
- Many fears proved unfounded

Direct experience provokes a more positive attitude

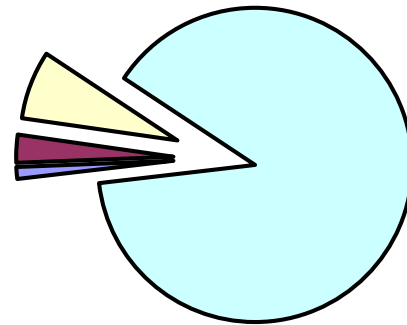
Closer proximity results in a higher level of support

Newspaper analysis

1 Jan 01 – 31 March 01

Media Groups

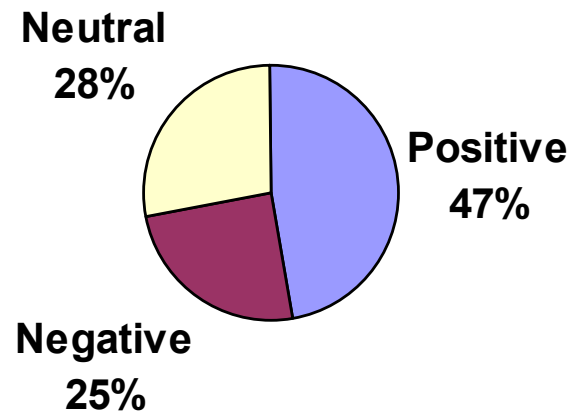
- Consumer Magazines
- Electronic Media
- Nationals
- Regional



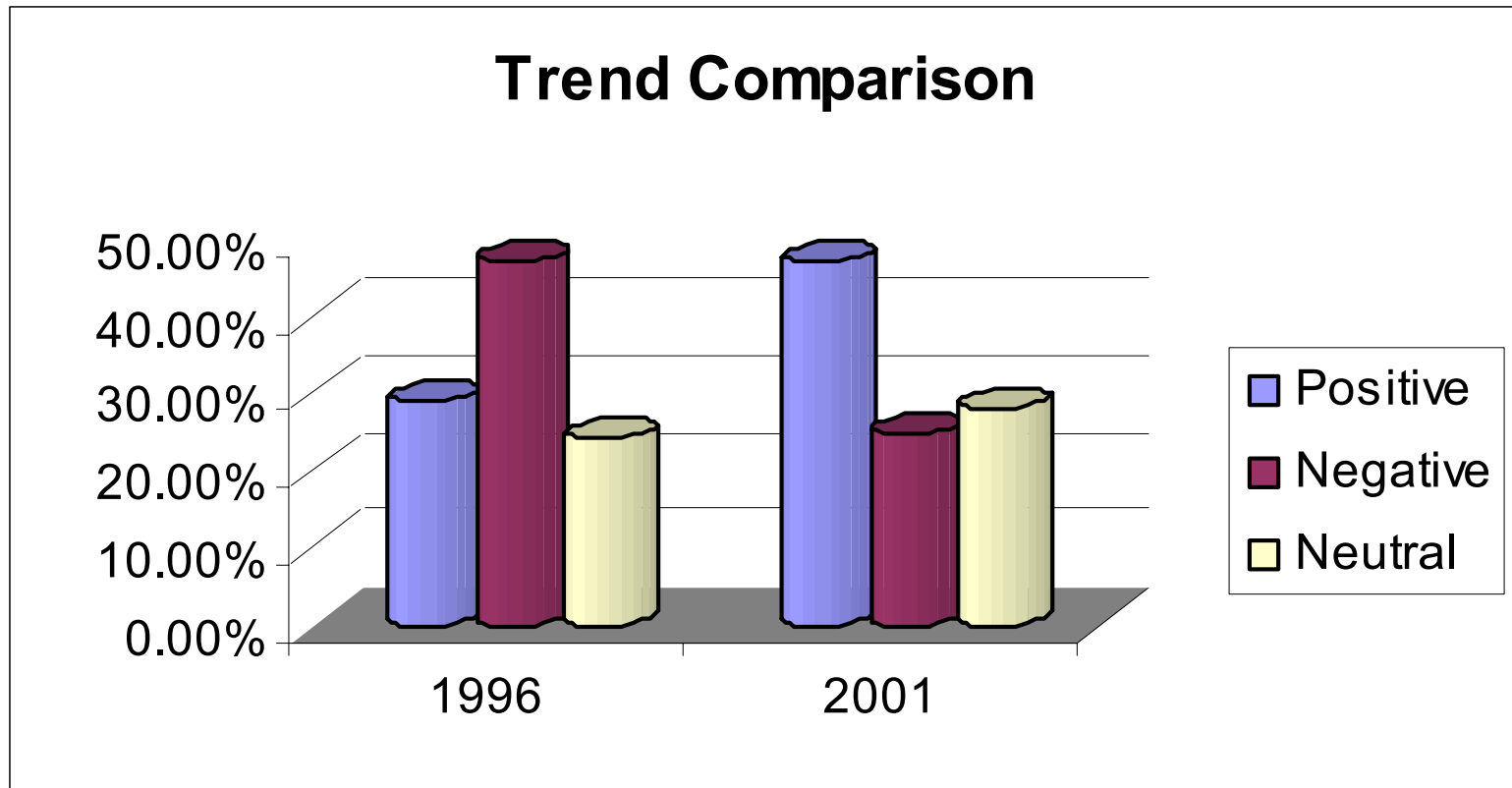
Newspaper analysis

1 Jan 01 – 31 March 01

Overall Trends in Coverage



Have things changed?

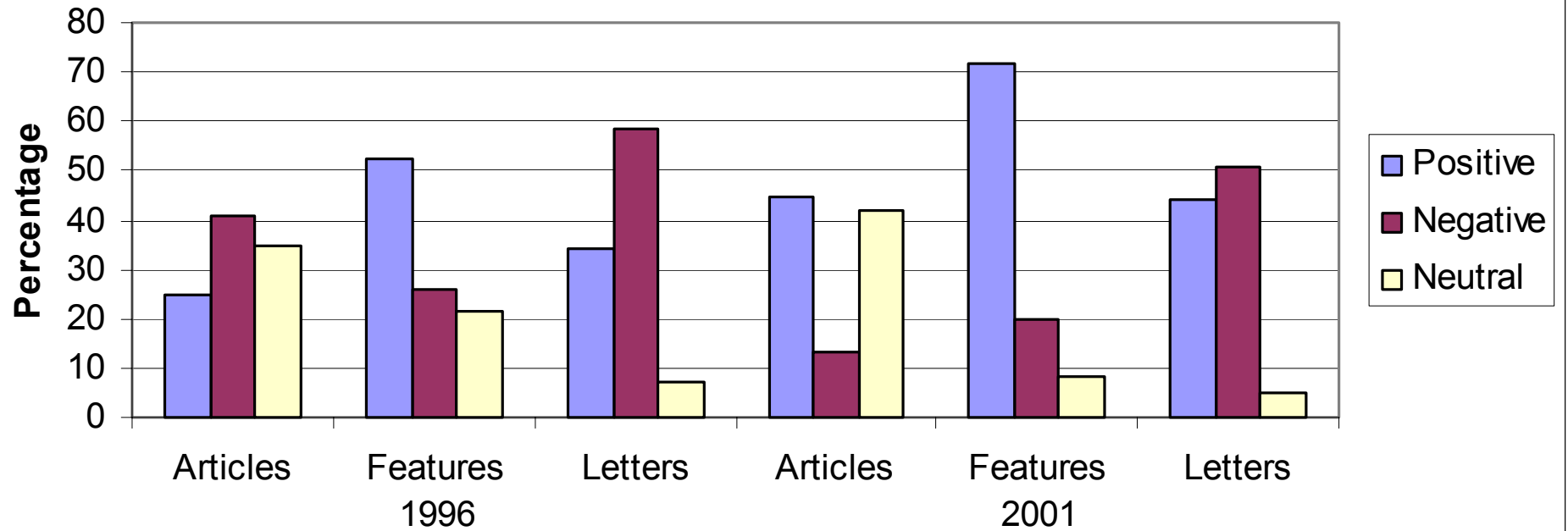


5 year comparison

Overall shift in balance from negative to **positive**

- negative coverage drops from 47% to 25%
- positive coverage rises from 29% to 47%
- neutral remains similar from 24% to 28%

Trends by Coverage Type



Letters to papers

Majority of negative coverage still occurs here

~10% shift in balance towards a more positive attitude

- negative falling from 59% to 51%
- positive rising from 34% to 44%

Neutral letters fell slightly from 7% to 5%

Spitfires-on-sticks

**Turbine's as useful 'as
a chocolate teapot'**

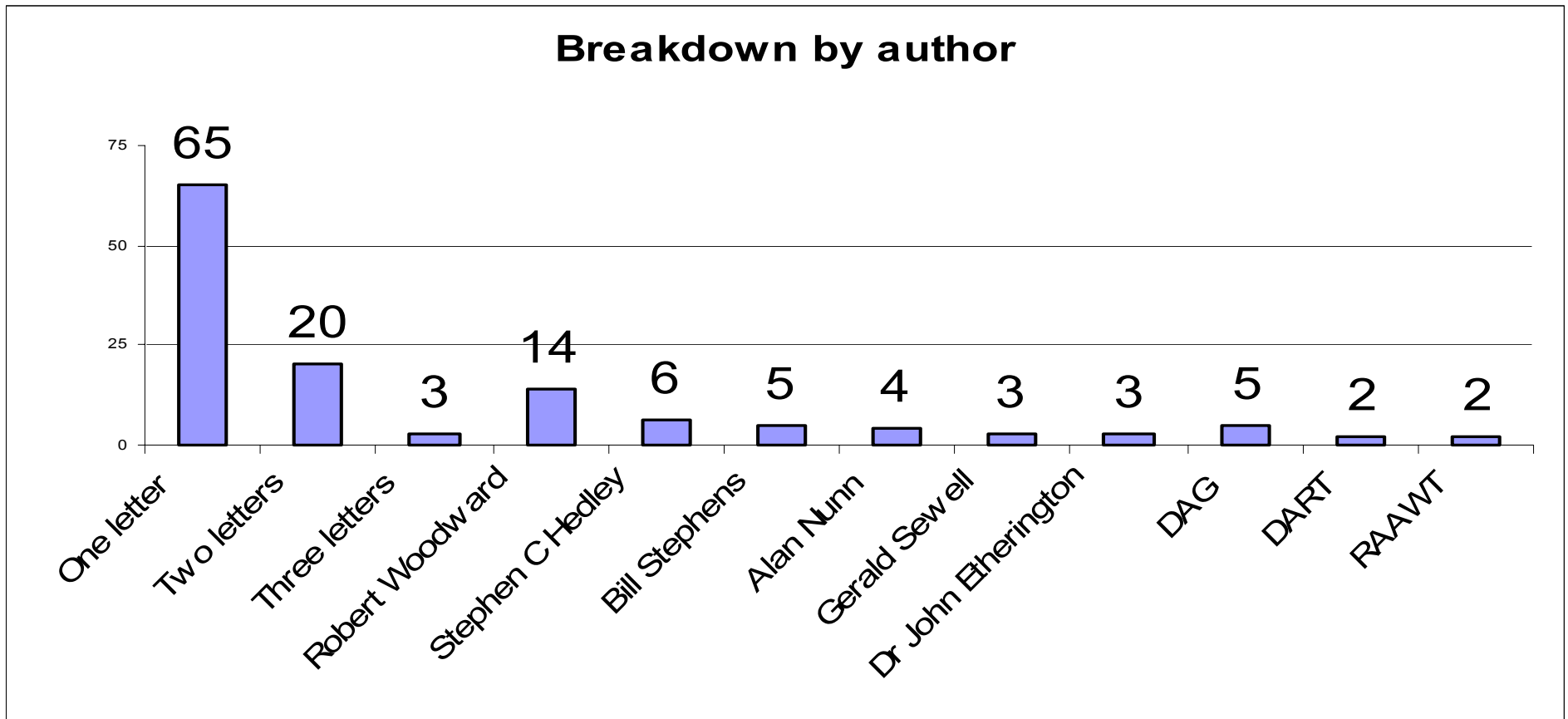
...could drive us to windpower

Turbines
will ruin
our lovely
landscape

Negative letters

1 Jan 01 – 31 March 01

Breakdown by author



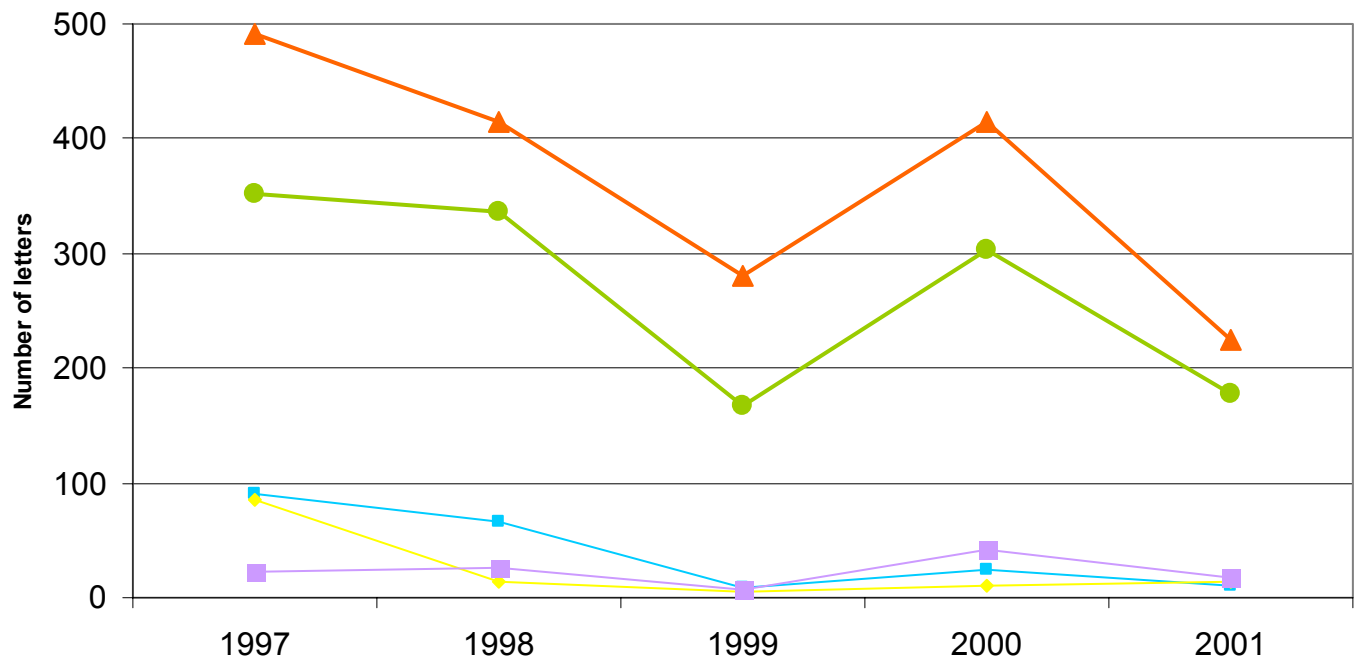
**A quarter of all anti-wind letters
published in UK newspapers are
written by**

**16
people**

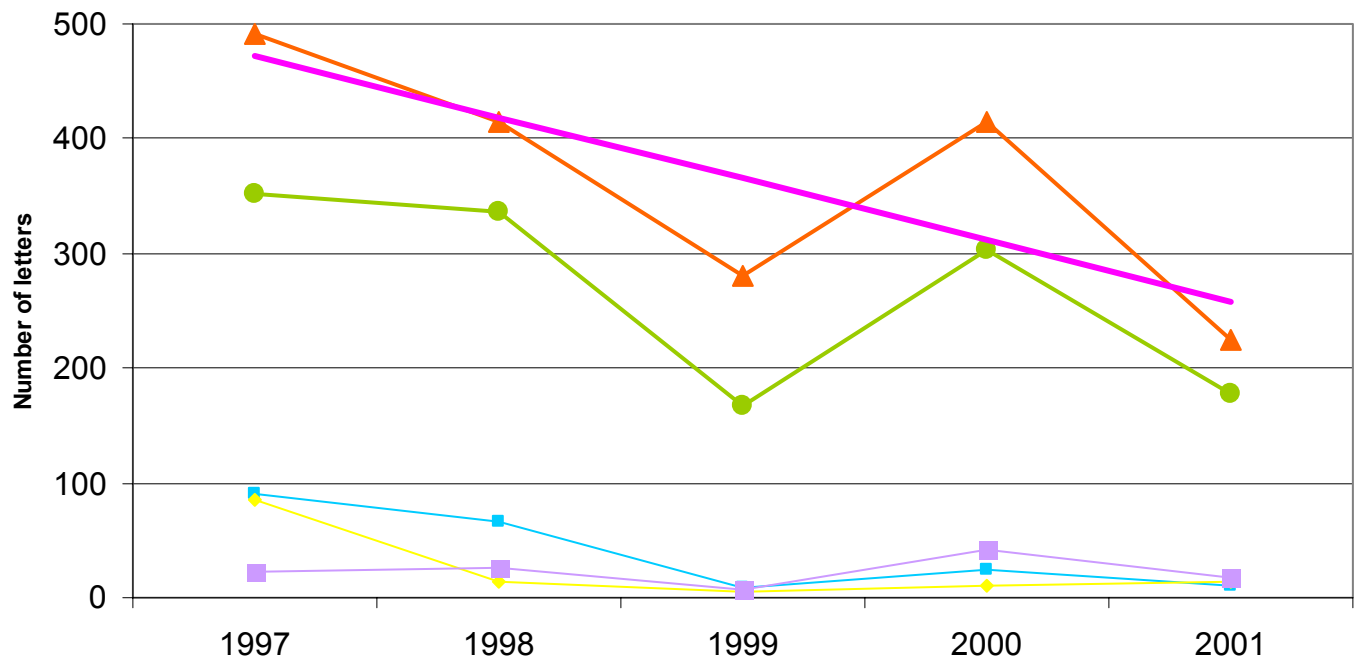
(and one man accounts for 7%)

- **Dr John Etherington**
- **Angela Kelly**
- **Elizabeth Mann**
- **Elizabeth Morley**
- **Alan Nunn**
- **Ioan M Richard**
- **Robert Woodward**

Letters Analysis 1997 - 2001



Letters Analysis 1997 - 2001



Legend: ● Total Positive, ■ BWEA, ▲ Total Negative, ◆ Country Guardian, ■ Other opposition groups, — Linear (Total Negative)



Bias in publications?

NO evidence for an overall bias towards negativity

However slight bias in regional publication:

- towards the positive in Scotland
- towards the negative in Wales

Conclusions

Letters continue to serve as local forum

More good press than bad

We've moved on ...

... but that doesn't mean we can stand still

Recognise this?




The REAL Country Guardian - Protecting the Countryside from the Blight of Nuclear Power - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Country Guardian is a UK conservation group focused on the environmental damage caused by nuclear power stations in areas of national or local landscape value. It is opposed to nuclear power and proposes that a diverse array of renewable energy is not only better for the environment but also more economical.

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Welcome to Country Guardian's website

Country Guardian is a UK conservation group focused on the environmental damage caused by commercial windfarms in areas of national or local landscape value. It is not opposed to wind energy as such, but in practice almost all sites which are windy are also environmentally sensitive.

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Internet

Look closely

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