



1. The fundamental problem with wind power is the (rather obvious) fact that it cannot be relied upon for power supplies at periods of peak demand because of its own inherent variability - and total absence of supply when there is either too little or too much wind; such as during winter Highs.
 - 1.1 As a result every MW of wind power capability has to be backed up by another source. This might be nuclear, gas, coal, bio-fuel etc.
 - 1.2 If the 'backup' were nuclear, the inherent consistency of supply over considerable periods of time -and the fact that running costs are substantially independent of the energy delivered to the grid - means that money spent on building wind turbines is genuinely wasted.
 - 1.3 Currently the peak electricity demand in the UK is about 45GW. This equates to **seven nuclear plants OR 12,000 wind turbines plus 7 nuclear plants.**
2. The Strike price for future multiple nuclear is £89.00/MWhr. (£92.50 for a single plant). The Strike price for wind is £155/Mwhr: this makes an unreliable source power unconscionably expensive.
 - 2.1 When wind was producing 2% of demand, the impact on prices was small. As more turbines are built and their supply favoured over more economical mechanisms, the percentage impact on consumer energy prices increases.
3. Gas is much more easily controllable and flexible in response, and we clearly have enough of it for many years to come, including indigenous shale gas. The UK could encourage CCS to commercial scale.
4. Long before gas, coal and oil run out we will have more solar power with associated water heated storage systems, integrated into both domestic homes and industrial buildings. The cost of solar cell technology is coming down so quickly and the range of practical applications integrating 'cells' into building materials is expanding. Solar is within a whisker of grid parity (unlike offshore wind).
5. Tidal stream and tidal flow, both of which are reliable, could reach grid parity before offshore wind, if only we got going and started building schemes like the Severn Barrage (which incidentally would also give us a Welsh/West Country motorway, if done right).
6. Geothermal has a huge potential but in terms of subsidy is the poor relative.
7. Sustainably managed new woodland plantations of coppice trees, etc can supply both short term, very effective, carbon sinks, as well as managed and harvested biofuel and biomass. Unlike wind, it adds to the natural amenity and wildlife value of landscapes.

Thus wind is really very marginal to energy security or control of GHG emissions, as well as being a not very desirable neighbour, even when compared to the other renewables.