



WATIF Neutrality Statement

WATIF's Statement of Neutrality on Developments in and around the WATIF area

Woolfords, Auchengray and Tarbrax Improvement Foundation (WATIF) maintains a neutral position on all developments (e.g. wind farms) in and around the WATIF area.

WATIF will engage with developers at all stages to pursue community benefit opportunities. Throughout this process of engagement, WATIF will remain neutral and our request for community benefits does not constitute or indicate support by the Trust.

If a new development can be clearly shown to support the aims of our Community Action Plan (CAP), the Trust may agree to support any such development, subject to agreement by the charity trustees.

Rationale

Why use the word 'developments' and not 'wind farms'?

'Developments' is a broad term which includes wind farms, but also other types of development that may be controversial that we may not anticipate, e.g. mining activities, housing developments, solar farms, etc.

Why do we need to engage with developers at 'all stages'?

Agreement of community benefits generally takes place as part of the planning stage, therefore WATIF must engage with developers prior to approval in order to secure a fair level of community benefit. We are very clear with developers that our engagement does not constitute support for the development to go ahead.

What do we mean by community benefit?

Community benefit may be direct (i.e. financial payments) or indirect (e.g. agreement by a developer to do something that would meet an aim of the Community Action Plan (CAP), such as the creation of publicly accessible paths.)

What do we mean by developments that support the Community Action Plan (CAP)?

The CAP is our primary guide for work by the Trust, and is the result of a community consultation. We acknowledge that it is possible that a new development in our area could directly or indirectly support one of our aims. The trust reserves the option of supporting a development like this, but it is not obliged to. Interpretation of what constitutes 'supporting the CAP' and any agreement to support a development is entirely at the discretion of the trustees.

What do we mean by "the Trust may agree to support any such development?"

The nature of any support given would be at the discretion of the trustees. This would be dependant on the type of development being proposed and how it supported the aims of the Community Action Plan.