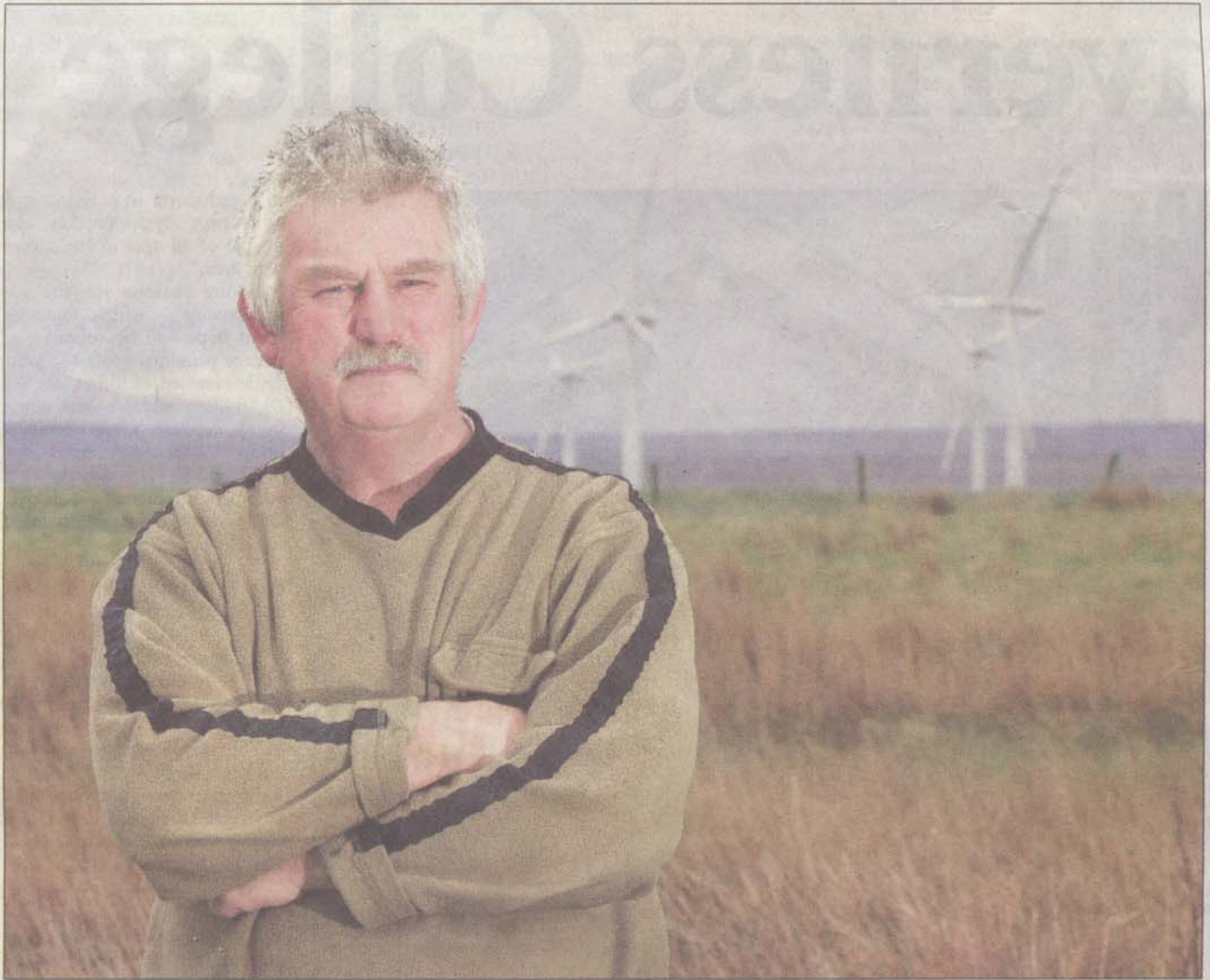


# Noise from windfarm making life a misery



Frank Bellamy on his land next to the Causwaymire windfarm

A RECENT settler in Caithness claimed yesterday his life is being blighted by ghostly noises from his new neighbours, the county's first large-scale windfarm.

Frank Bellamy said the steady, pulsing noise emitted by National Wind Power's £30 million development at the Causwaymire could force him to sell up and move away.

He said if he gets no satisfaction with his complaints, he will consider taking legal action against National Wind Power.

The 54-year-old bricklayer insisted he knew nothing of plans for the windfarm when he bought Wingfield a six-acre smallholding near Spittal in November 2002.

He said the extent of the noise problem only become

apparent to him recently because prior to that he worked for long spells in his native Yorkshire. He lives alone in a caravan, less than a mile from the nearest turbine.

Mr Bellamy said: "The problem is particularly bad at night when I try to get to sleep and there's a strong wind coming from the direction of the turbines.

"They just keep on droning on. It's a wooh wooh type of sound, a ghostly sort of noise. It's like torture and would drive anyone mad."

Mr Bellamy believes the noise is being transmitted through the ground since it seems to intensify when he lies down.

He said he has got nowhere with complaints to the wind company and environmental

health officers. "I feel I'm just getting fobbed off and can't get anyone to treat me seriously," he said.

Mr Bellamy has been asked to take noise readings every 10 minutes during problem times, something he claims is unrealistic to expect him to do.

He said the company's project manager Stuart Quinton-Tulloch said they could not act until it had proof of unacceptable noise levels.

Mr Bellamy said: "I'm not the moaning type and I have no problem with the look of the windmills. I'm not anti-windfarm. It's just the noise which is obviously not going to go away."

Mr Bellamy had planned to settle in Caithness and build a house near the caravan but the

windfarm issue has put him in limbo. He added: "I really like it up here but this has spoiled my whole outlook. Even if I decide to sell, I'd struggle to find a buyer as I would have to be upfront with people about the extent of the noise problem." Mr Bellamy fears that ongoing exposure to the nuisance could cause him health problems.

Highland Council's principal environment officer Tom Foy who has been dealing with Mr Bellamy's complaint was unavailable for comment.

His colleague David Proudfoot said he was aware of noise complaints about the Causwaymire turbines being lodged by two other residents, but said he had gone out several times and found no evidence to support the concerns.

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