

ROCHDALE BURY BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

RBBA conducted a survey of riders' opinions concerning the effect the proposal to build a wind farm on Rooley Moor will have on their riding activities.

Riders from 3 areas near to Rooley Moor were invited to give their opinions by completing a simple questionnaire.

The areas were:-

A	B	C
<p><u>Rooley Moor Road and Knacks Lane</u></p> <p>4 livery yards and 1 private yard</p> <p>26 responses</p>	<p><u>Woodhouse Lane</u></p> <p>3 livery yards and 2 private yards</p> <p>17 responses</p>	<p><u>Norden, Bamford and Red Lumb</u></p> <p>2 livery yards and 5 private yards</p> <p>21 responses</p>

1 person from Bury responded

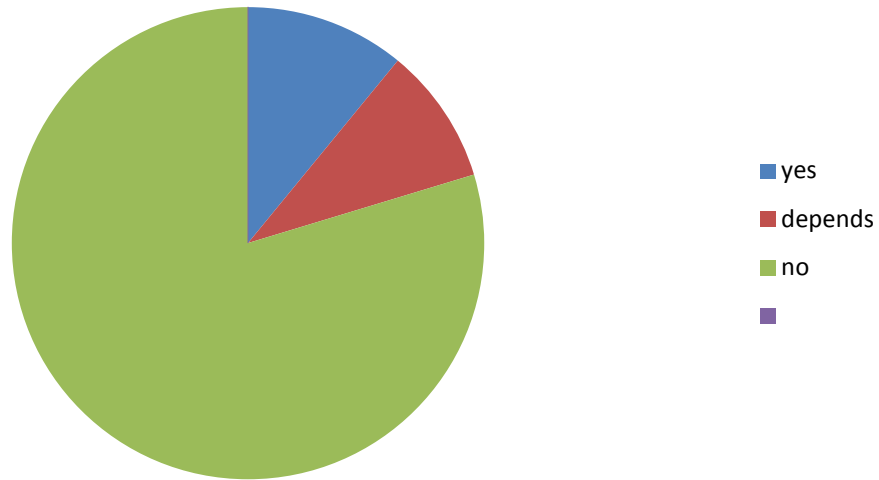
A total of 65 riders returned questionnaires

Not all questions were answered and not all YES/NO answers received a comment with the answer.

All of the people who responded to the questionnaire rode on Rooley Moor and Rooley Moor Road. Some riders used the Moor on a daily basis. One person used the Moor for riding and also driving a pony and trap. Several of those who returned a questionnaire were children and this is noted next to their responses using "ch/age" in the comments section.

The Results of the Survey

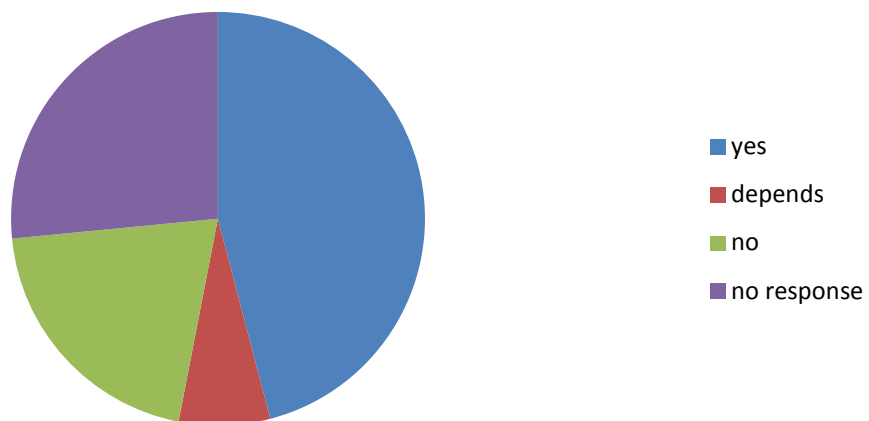
Would you ride Rooley Moor Road and Rooley Common if the turbines were built?



78% of the riders who responded would not ride on Rooley Moor or up Rooley Moor Road if the turbines were built

If you are at livery, would you move livery yards if the turbines are built?

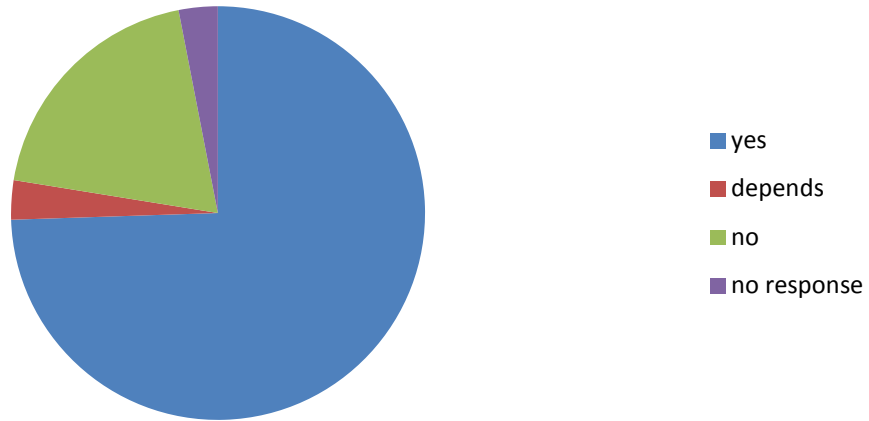
OVERALL



53 of the riders who responded kept their horses at livery. 45% would consider leaving their current livery yard if the turbines are built

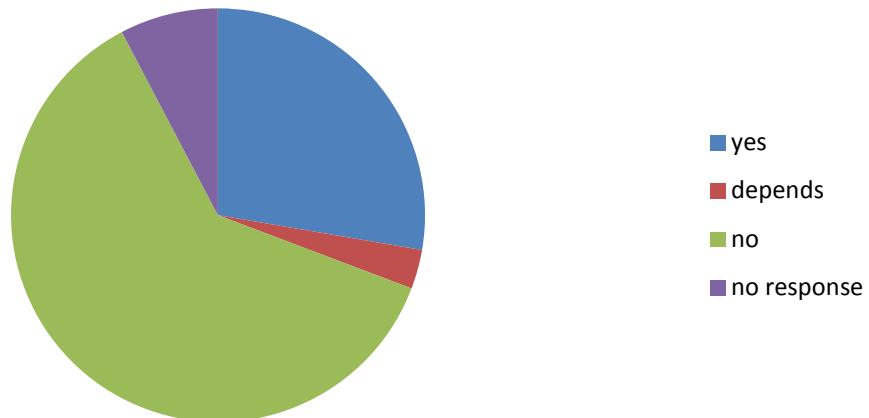
If you are at livery, would you move livery yards if the turbines are built?

AREA A ONLY



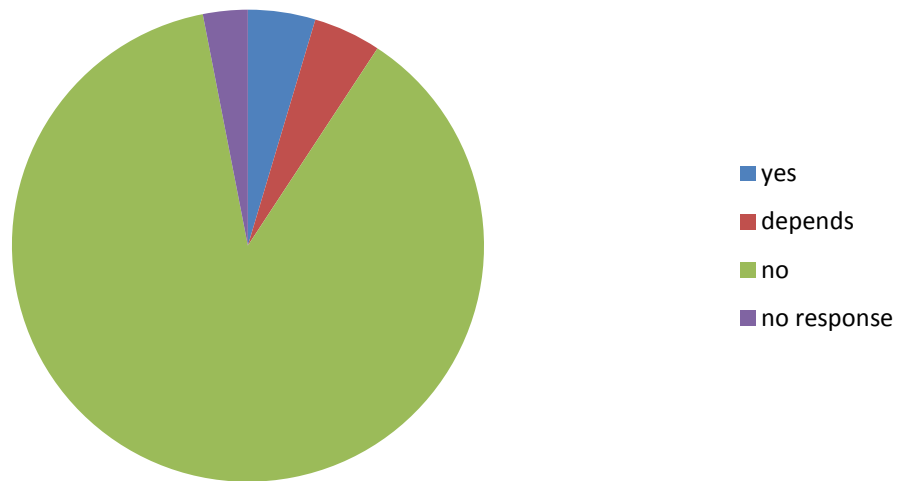
73% of riders who responded in Area A- Rooley Moor Road and Knacks Lane- would consider leaving their current livery yard if the turbines were built.

**Do you ride at present the cul-de-sac
bridleway past Ding Quarry and an existing
turbine?**



61% of riders who responded would not ride up past the existing turbine

Would you ride closer than 200m to an existing turbine on Scout Moor?



88% of riders who responded would not ride any closer to a turbine that 200m

In Conclusion

Whether or not their horses would behave badly when confronted by a wind turbine at close quarters the majority of riders who responded to this questionnaire feel that they would not be safe when riding near to a wind turbine. Some riders have actual fears about their horses' reactions to wind turbines as they have taken their horses near to the existing Scout Moor turbines and have had bad experiences. Other riders have perceived fears.

The questionnaire indicates that the livery yards nearest to Rooley Moor could be at serious risk of losing their clients and going out of business.

We believe it is the perceived fears of the riders, both locals and visitors, that will prevent riders from tackling the Mary Towneley Loop if the turbines are built and consequently affect the economic viability of the associated Bed & Breakfast businesses.

COMMENTS

Question: Would you ride Rooley Moor Road and on Rooley Common if the turbines are built? If not, please say why.

Comments

NO

- when they are moving they can be quite spooky for ponies
- not as shown on the plans, they are too close to the bridleway and I have a nervy horse
- my horse is scared of them, it would be dangerous
- because the reasons for riding up there will be spoilt, also the turbines are too large and too near to the route
- as it would make the route less accessible and detract from the pleasure of the ride as my horse would not ride close to them
- as my horse is a very spooky horse & would freak at the wind turbines
- I don't think I would. I ride on the moor because it's safe. It would no longer be safe
- I wouldn't risk it
- as my horses would be troubled by them
- my horse does not like anything above him moving, He watches the blades of the existing turbines and they are not so close
- after riding past the ones in Ding Quarry which scared my horse, probably not.
- as my horse is very spooky and wouldn't cope
- because I feel it is unsafe for horse and rider
- because I am a novice rider with a young horse and it would be extremely unsafe
- my horse has and would be very scared of the turbines
- I feel it would not be safe as my horse would be frightened which is likely to cause an accident
- fear of my horse spooking
- they will be too scary and upset the horses

- because they will scare my horse and I do not want her to get injured again
- my horse is unreliable and we would struggle to contain his behaviour
- as the turbines would definitely scare my horse
- I would have no option other than to ride due to where my yard is situated. I would, however, have to consider changing yards if there are safety issues
- NOT NEAR ANY TURBINES. Too great a risk of injury if spook and run onto moorland bogs, rocks etc
- my daughter rides who is 7 and her pony would be spooked
- young horse spooked by HGVs
- my horse is young and is spooked by HGVs
- not with one of my horses
- would scare my horse (ch/12)
- my pony will not pass (ch/10)
- wouldn't feel safe (ch/15)
- it would scare my pony (ch/10)
- it is unsafe as horse is easily spooked
- I wouldn't feel safe on my horse
- I wouldn't feel safe
- unsafe, horse would not pass
- would scare my horse
- I would not as my horse would have a fit with the noise
- It is not practical or safe to expect horses to ride past turbines. Also the increase in traffic is not safe
- not safe
- absolutely not, it would scare my horse
- because my pony Billy got scared (ch/8)
- too dangerous, heavy lorries whilst being built, plus then left with large turbine
- would cause problems with my horse and myself, too dangerous
- as my horse is extremely traffic shy and nervous, that's why we are on the Moor

- they would scare the horses, especially if I am riding alone as she is nervous of strange, large objects
- definitely not, my horse would be unrideable with the fear of the blades' movement, the shadows and the noise
- horse too flightly and also take young daughter and pony separately
- as my horse is blind and this makes him spooky with traffic and noise
- we would not, we have a warmblood competition horse which we value highly and would not risk injury to ourselves or them
- because they will upset my horse and therefore may cause injury to myself/horse-and lorries to build , these frighten my horse also
- my horse would have a heart attack and potentially kill me
- as retired, we would only want to ride in quiet peaceful surroundings so would not want to dodge the turbines
- because they spook my horse, it would make it unsafe to ride

DEPENDS/PERHAPS

- whether scares horse too much being so close and noise they make
- would depend if the horses spook or not
- will try to but unsure of how horse will react
- depends on position of turbines
- depends on how far away from the bridleway

YES

- but only if safe to do so
- but only at a low level on the moor
- would have to be cautious
- providing if I get my horse past. I ride up there because it's peaceful

Question: If you are at livery, would you move livery yards if the turbines are built? If you would, please say why.

Comments

YES

- I wouldn't have anywhere to ride A
- Stable near the common for off-road safe riding, if turbines built it is no longer safe C
- If it meant riding past them (the turbines) was a problem B
- I chose this yard for its access to safe off-road hacking A
- I have moved my horse a long way from home because it is very spooky in traffic and for the great hacking A
- Reason for being in this area is for the safe hacking available A
- I would move. The yard is minutes from the moors. The turbines would put an end to the rural area A
- to a safer riding environment A
- too dangerous. No good road hacking A
- we are currently moving house and livery yard due to the threat of the turbines. It will spoil the area. It is currently a peaceful, quiet ride for the horses A
- because of noise and the traffic A
- during the construction period due to volume of traffic I would move A
- I wouldn't enjoy the hacking from this yard A
- If there were safety issues when riding I would have to seriously consider it A
- if the hacking was impossible to use ,yes, as it is necessary for my horse A
- no riding facilities B
- wouldn't feel safe (ch/15) C
- this would be a shame because we are settled and happy and safe here A
- as would cause severe problems with my nervous horse A
- I moved here as it has quiet riding for my blind, spooky horse A

- I am located at this yard for riding purposes and I would not be able to do so A
- to somewhere quiet and peaceful A
- otherwise I would be trapped in like a prisoner A
- for a relaxing quieter environment B

PERHAPS/POSSIBLY WOULD

- (one without comment) B
- as we have to ride over Rooley Moor for most rides B
- (one without comment) A
- If it interfered with riding C

NO

- they would restrict our riding, there are 22 horses/ponies on our yard who use the moors regularly B
- (one without comment) B
- but I would have to ride on the roads B
- one without comment B
- as it is local to me but it may have to become an option due to traffic, noise and disturbance A
- too far to travel elsewhere C
- no need because we are not near enough C
- I own a livery yard and worry that my liveries would leave due to the upset. This would be very sad as they are more like my family A
- But I would just have to ride in the menage. Very boring! A
- I live here so have no option A
- We live at Snipe Barn and have no option A

Question: Do you ride at present the cul-de-sac bridleway past Ding Quarry and an existing turbine close to the bridleway?

Comments

NO

- goes no-where and risks outweigh benefits
- as there is a turbine there
- due to the present turbine
- I would feel unsafe to do that
- I have once tried to ride over near the turbine and my horse bolted and we both nearly died
- as there is a turbine close to the path
- would have done before the turbine
- I do not enter Ding Quarry due to the proximity of one turbine
- there are turbines near
- as there is a turbine there
- it is too noisy (ch/8)
- too dangerous on Scout Moor but ride over to Lee Quarry safer than going over to Ding towards the turbines
- too dangerous on Scout Moor but do go to Ding and Lee Quarries
- I ride past Ding and then down lee Quarry. Not near the turbines as they seem to make a noise as well as looking huge
- I avoid the turbines
- we prefer to stay on local quiet tracks which are safer

YES

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- I ride on the moor but keep away from the turbine
- but not to turbine
- I now return once I reach Ding Quarry because of the turbine
- infrequently as horse scared of turbines and do not wish any injuries to myself or horse
- ride from Rooley Moor Road ,Ding Quarry and over to Stacksteads
- but not often because of the wind farms

Question: Would you ride closer than 200m to an existing turbine on Scout Moor? If not, please say why.

Comments

NO

- I don't think I would be able to get my horse that close if they are moving. I don't see why they need to be built near to where we use the tracks when there is so much space up there. Why can't they be put up further away from areas that are used? Surely there is enough space for everyone?
- ground is too boggy
- it would be dangerous, wouldn't put myself or my horse at risk
- I want to keep myself safe
- as I would not want to place myself or my horse in a situation that would concern him. It is difficult riding Knowl Moor with the existing ones already
- as there would be an accident as my horse would spook
- I feel my horse would spook
- I wouldn't because my horse is likely to be spooked and therefore would be dangerous to ride
- fear of horse spooking
- not any closer, don't know how horse would react
- would be frightened, my horse would be frightened
- my horse does not like anything above him moving. He watches the blades of the existing turbines and they are not so close
- do not want to scare my horse and risk coming off
- because it would scare my horse
- my horse wouldn't do this
- due to noise and my horse becomes frightened therefore endangering horse and rider
- it would be impossible for me or my horse to do this
- I and my horse could never ride 200m near existing turbines
- Not a chance! I value my safety and my horse's safety too much
- my horse won't go that close

- because they are scary for the horses and it is too late when an accident has happened and somebody gets killed
- because my horse would probably kill me
- horse quite unsettled
- I would not be able to do this on my horse
- my horse would be unsafe riding close to a turbine
- not if I had an option. I have major concerns for my own and my horse's safety
- too close. Would definitely scare my horse and possibly cause me or him injury
- wouldn't get my horse near them
- too close
- spooky horses
- consider it dangerous
- would scare my horse (ch/12)
- unsafe for me to ride so near (ch/10)
- too noisy (ch/15)
- unsafe, too noisy (ch/10)
- too noisy
- unless absolutely necessary
- I wouldn't feel safe on my horse
- not safe
- I would not feel safe , my horse is 17.2hh and it's a long way to fall
- the sound is very unnerving for horses
- unsafe
- too unsafe
- too noisy to ride anywhere near (ch/8)
- too dangerous
- not worth the risk of my horses life or mine for that matter, we will be seeing the air ambulance much more!!
- as liable to end up in a heap on the floor or dead!
- far too dangerous, not taking the risk, all our riding space is starting to decrease

- definitely not, my horse would be unrideable with the fear of the blades' movement, the shadows and the noise
- because of the noise my blind horse would become very unsettled
- not at all
- if my horse spooks it could cause major injury
- my horse would have a heart attack and potentially kill me
- as it would frighten the horse
- because of the noise and they would spook my horse

WOULD TRY

- depends on reactions of horse, if I thought safe to do so
- would be very cautious if I tried to as would be worried about reactions of horse
- not sure my horse would go past it
- horse would not pass making it unsafe for me
- would need to be further away

YES

- if horse wasn't frightened of them