

Western Isle Development Trust Public Attitude Survey

Weighted Topline Results

- Results are based on a survey of 601 residents of the Western Isles conducted by telephone 12-20 May 2006
- Data are weighted by age, gender, working status and area.
- An asterix (*) indicates a percentage of less than 0.5% but greater than zero.
- A dash (-) represents nought.
- Where percentages do not add up to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, multiple responses, or the exclusion of don't know categories.
- All figures are percentages based on the total sample (601) unless otherwise stated.

Presentation and Interpretation of the Data

When interpreting the findings it is important to remember that the results are only based on a sample of the population, and not on the entire population. Consequently, results are subject to sampling tolerances, and not all differences between subgroups are therefore significant.

Publication of Data

As with all our studies, these results are subject to our standard terms and conditions of contract. Any publication of results requires the prior approval of Ipsos MORI and the Western Isles Development Trust. Such approval will only be refused on the grounds of inaccuracy or misrepresentation.

Good morning/afternoon/evening. I'm from Ipsos MORI, the Market & Opinion Research company. We're conducting a survey about the local environment and the area you live in. The interview will take no more than 10 minutes of your time. All your answers will be strictly confidential. No one will see your individual responses and no information will be generated that would enable any individual to be identified. Is now a good time?

Base: All respondents (601)

Q1. First, can I just check whether this is your sole or main residence or whether it is a second or holiday home?

	(%)
Sole/main residence	99
Holiday/second home	1

Base: Those with second/holiday home (7)

Q2. Do you or a member of your family own the property?

	(%)
Yes	100
No	-

Base: All respondents (601)

Q3. And how long have you or your family had this property?

	%
Less than a year	6
1-5 years	19
6-10 years	15
11-20 years	22
21-30 years	15
Over 30 years	26

Q4. Taken as a whole, how would you rate that area as a place to live? Is that very or fairly good/poor?

	(%)
Very good	78
Fairly good	19
Fairly poor	1
Very poor	*
Don't know/No opinion	1

Q5. Are you aware of the proposals to build two major windfarms on Lewis?

	(%)
Yes	97
No	2
Don't know	*

Q6. To what extent do you support or oppose the general principle of building major windfarms on Lewis?

	(%)
Strongly support	22
Tend to support	19
Neither support nor oppose	14
Tend to oppose	12
Strongly oppose	28
No opinion	5

Base: Those who oppose proposals (242)

**Q7 Why do you say you are opposed to the proposals?
(Answers below 4% not included)**

	(%)
Spoil the view/scenery	58
Damage to birds/wildlife	31
Wind turbines planned would be too big	23
Effect on tourism/attitudes of visitors	19
Damage to plants and wetlands	15
Too many wind turbines are planned	12
Noise of turbines	10
Disturbance during construction	9
Don't agree with windfarms generally	7
Damage caused by new roads	5
Too close to homes	4
Would reduce value of my property	4
Other	10
Don't know	1

Base: Those who support proposals (245)

**Q8 Why do you say you support the proposals?
(Answers below 4% not included)**

	(%)
Clean way to generate electricity/generally support wind energy	45
Construction will bring jobs to the area	32
Benefits to the local economy	24
Will contribute to reduced pollution and help combat climate change	16
Community investment will create jobs in the community	13
Local economy will benefit from more visitors	5
Like the sight of the turbines	4
Other	8
Don't know	3

Base: All respondents (601)

Q9 I'd like to ask you more specifically about individual developments. Are you aware of the proposals in relation to the....

- a) British Energy/AMEC windfarm in North Lewis
- b) Beinn Mhor Power windfarm in South Lochs
- c) Small community owned windfarms?

	(A) (%)	B) (%)	C) (%)
Yes	70	66	63
No	29	34	36
Don't know	1	*	1

Base: Those aware of proposals – A (424); B(399); C(378)

Q10 Do you support or oppose the proposals in relation to the

- a) British Energy/AMEC windfarm in North Lewis
- b) Beinn Mhor Power in South Lochs
- c) Small community owned windfarms

	A)	B)	C)
Support	38	34	73
Neither	10	15	9
Oppose	47	41	12
Don't know	4	9	5

Base: All respondents (601)

Q11 **And from what you have heard, would you be able to see either the wind turbines at any of the windfarms, or the pylons carrying the electric cables, from your home?**

	(%)
The Wind Turbines	32
The Pylons (carrying the electricity)	23
Neither	58
Don't know	6

Q12 **I am going to read a pair of statements, please tell me which one, if any, you agree with most. First of all.....**

	(%)
The extent to which windfarms impact on the local environment is worthwhile given the wider benefits of reducing pollution	50
The harm caused to the local environment and wildlife by building windfarms would be worse than any wider environmental benefits that would be gained	44
Don't know	5

Q13 **I am going to read out another pair of statements, please tell me which one you agree with most. And now.....**

	(%)
On balance building windfarms on the Western Isles will benefit the economy as it will bring jobs and significant community investment to the local area	54
On balance building windfarms on the Western Isles will be damaging to the local economy because of the impact on tourism	40
Don't know	6

Q14 **Have you heard of special protection areas or national scenic areas in the Western Isles?**

	(%)
Yes	66
No	31
Don't know	3

Base: Have heard of protected/scenic areas in the Western Isles (395)

Q15 **Do you think the proposed windfarms should be allowed to be built on**

a) Special Protection Areas

b) National scenic areas?

	A (%)	B (%)
Yes	27	24
No	64	66
Don't know	9	10

Base: All respondents (601)

Q16 **How strongly would you support or oppose proposals to create a centre for the study and research and development of renewable energy in the Western Isles?**

	(%)
Strongly Support	47
Tend to support	33
Neither	7
Tend to oppose	4
Strongly oppose	5
Don't know	4

Q17 Any electricity generated on the Western Isles would need to be transmitted on an electricity grid. Were you aware that the grid in the Western Isles is at full capacity, and would be unable to conduct the power from any new windfarms?

	(%)
Yes, aware	43
No, not aware	56
Don't know	2

Q18 For the Western Isles to create an industry with the capacity to generate electricity from wave or tidal power, it would be necessary to upgrade the link with the National Grid. Would you support or oppose upgrading the link with the National Grid?

	(%)
Yes, support	75
No, oppose	14
Don't know	11
