

Planning, Devolution and the Territorialisation of Wind Energy in the UK

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Planning, Devolution and the Territorialisation of Wind Energy in the UK

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Territory, scale and energy governance

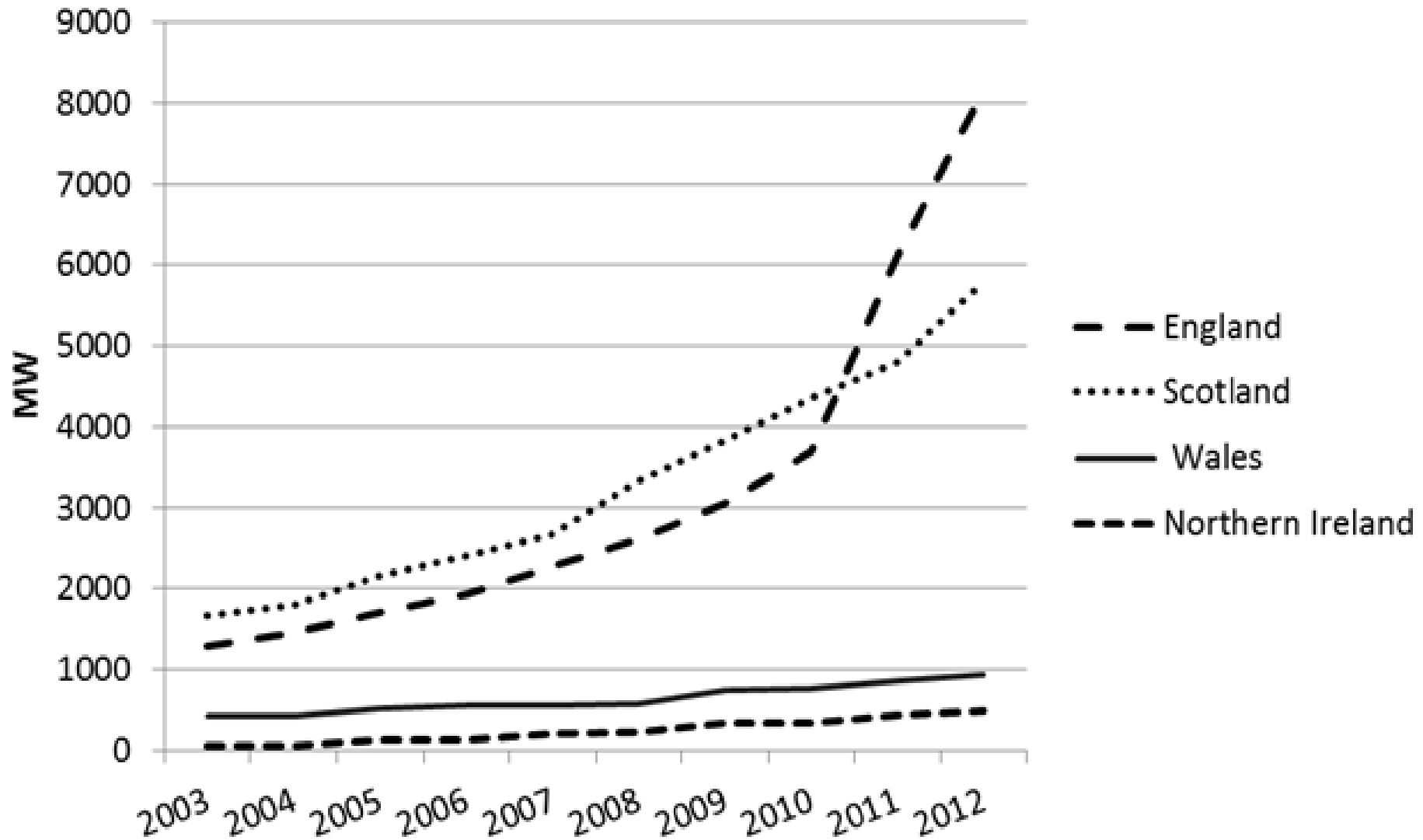
- Multi-scalar influences on energy governance and the drivers for wind energy. For example in the UK:
 - EU targets
 - Energy as a national issue
 - Reliance of devolved administrations for renewables (esp wind)
 - Re-framing of spatial relationships with energy – for example decentralised generation.
- Energy as a socio-technical system, with an underdeveloped spatial dimension.
- The role of planning in the territorialisation and politicisation of energy.

Devolution in the UK

- Devolution since 1998/99 : 'the age of wind energy'.
- An example of '*re-territorialisation*'
- Distribution of 'asymmetric competencies':
 - Planning is fully devolved to all administrations; other key aspects of energy policy are not.
- The evolving political context – divergence since 2010.



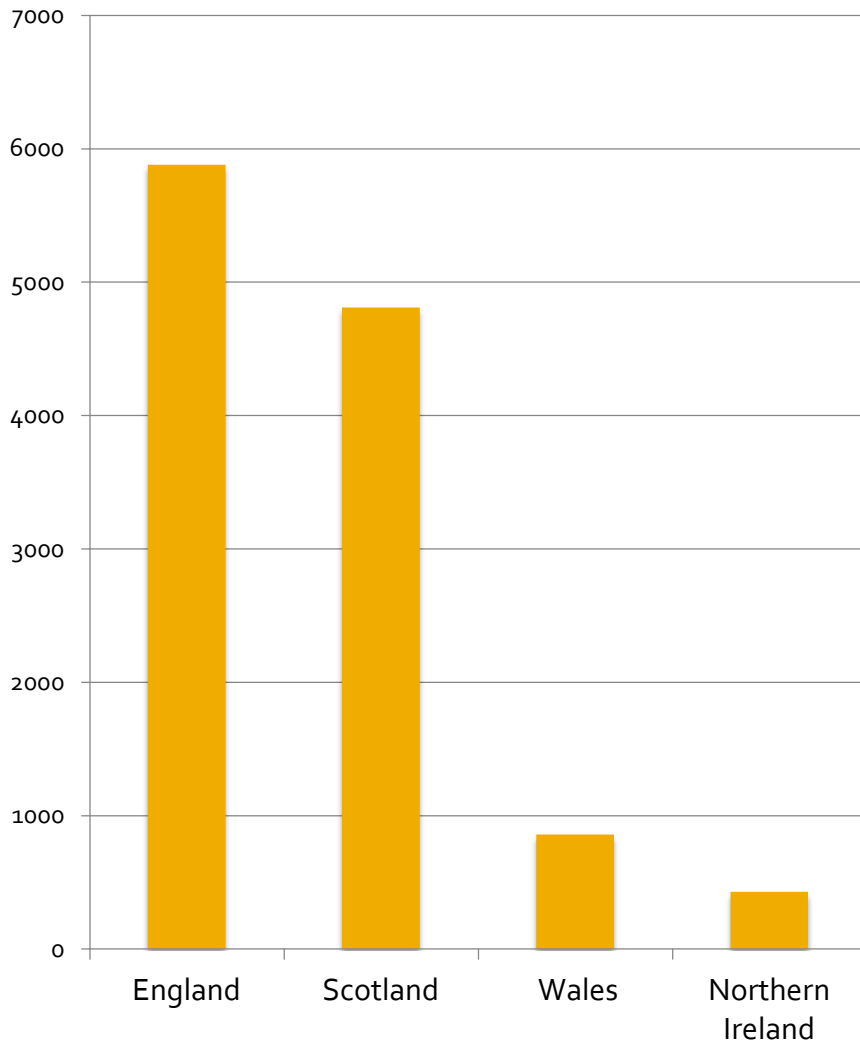
Installed renewable energy capacity in the UK 2003-2012 (MW)



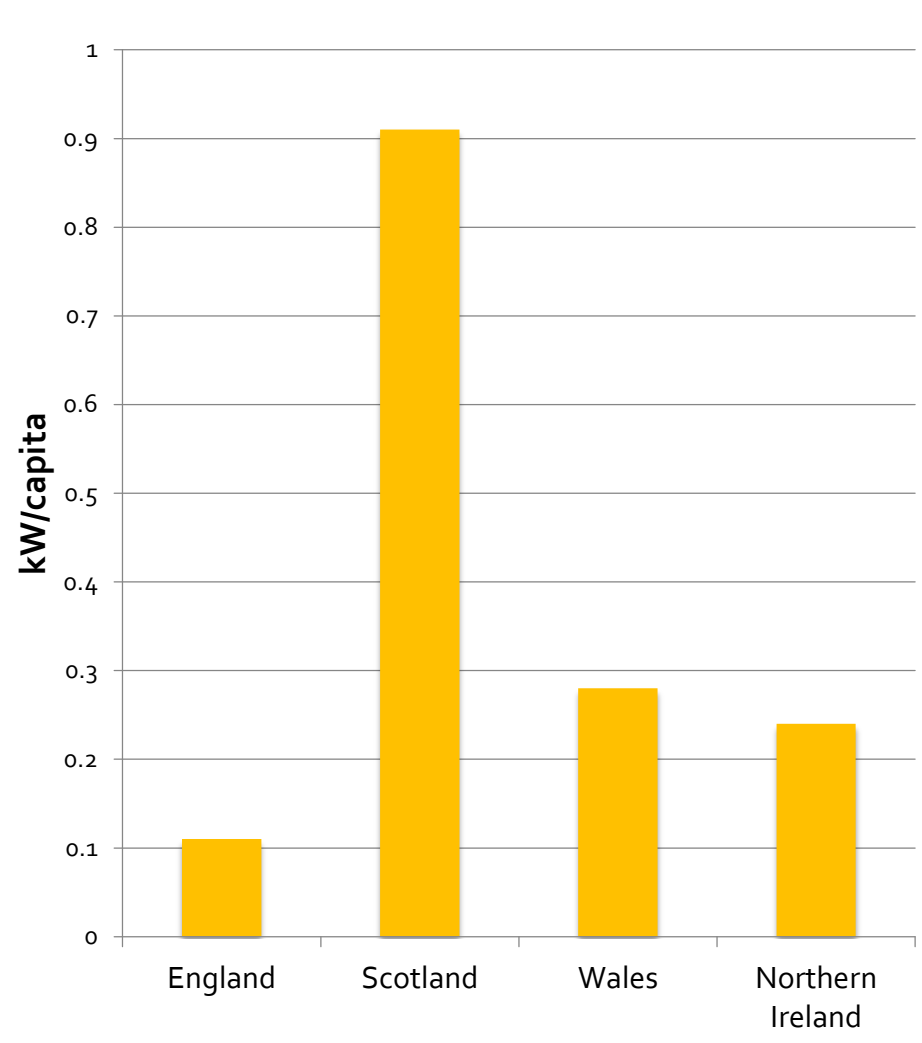
(Source: DECC 2013, RESTATS historic data)

Renewable Capacity per capita

Renewable installed capacity



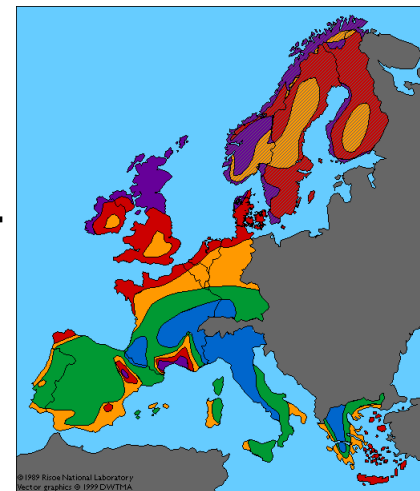
Renewable capacity per capita



Country	Energy policy is ...	Provision of market support for renewable energy	Planning and consents (onshore)	Planning and consents (offshore)	Economic development spending
Northern Ireland	Fully devolved	Fully devolved	Fully devolved	Fully devolved	Fully devolved
Scotland	Executively devolved	Scope to shape delivery of some schemes	Fully devolved	Fully devolved	Fully devolved
Wales	Not devolved	No powers	Partial powers over planning policy and consent for smaller schemes (below 50MW)	Power to determine applications up to 1MW (exception under Transport & Works Act 1992)	Fully devolved
Westminster & England	Full competence	Full competence	Full policy competence for England, partial for Wales; full competence over major projects (50MW plus)	Full competence for English and Welsh Waters (subject to Welsh exceptions, above)	Fully devolved

Wind energy and the shaping of territorial priorities

- Devolved Administrations host the greatest renewable resources and over half installed capacity of the UK.
- UK state is responsible for meeting EU renewable energy target:
 - 15% of total energy by 2020
 - Devolved administration proportionally exceed these targets
- Complex regional relationships and nationalistic influences on priorities for renewable energy development



Planning and the territorialisation of wind in the UK

- National planning guidance as a key instrument of territorialisation:
 - Scotland's anti-nuclear stance and post-independence energy economy;
 - Wales steering of large scale projects and limits on autonomy;
 - Northern Ireland's regulation-lite;
 - English Conservatism and landscape protection.
- *Yet* each have a shared emphasis on streamlining decision and 'infrastructuralism'
- Local politicisation – national territorialisation

Final thoughts

- Understanding the geographic scales of energy governance: nation states, communities *and* sub-national government.
- The resilience of dominant energy pathways and energy-as-infrastructure.
- Insights into the spatial politics of the low carbon transition:
 - Multi-level governance and the specificity of place
 - Both challenging *and* reinforcing different types of territorial relationships



Thank you

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