

MONSTERS ON OUR MOORLANDS

This collection of songs and tunes was put together to support the Friends of the South Pennines in their campaign to protect this special landscape from inappropriate industrial development. The title track **Monsters on our Moorlands** sums it up: opportunist developers gathering like vultures to exploit concerns about climate change to build dozens of huge wind turbines on our skylines with no regard for the environmental impact on these fragile moorlands. Between “Monsters” and the final track, **Forgotten Hills** - a description taken from a guide to the South Pennines - there is something to suit most tastes.

Still on the moorland theme. **Wild Mountain Thyme** is an old traditional Scottish song and **Pennine Way** is a tribute to Tom Stephenson, the founder of the first long-distance trail which runs through the forgotten hills. **Middleton Junction Band** was apparently active in the 1930s, when players worked either at the Junction mill or the CWS jam factory (The Jam). Hollingworth Lake near Rochdale was known in the local dialect as the **Weighvers’ Seaport**, a holiday destination for weavers in Victorian times. The words, describing the Lake in its heyday, are taken from an old visitor’s handbook. Continuing the local theme. **Come to Sunny Rochdale** is just a bit of fun, but maybe global warming might have a positive side! **A Trip to Blackpool** is another bit of whimsy, but I bet it rings a bell.

Skyline and **Nathan Bailey** are two accordion/banjo tunes: I wrote the second just after he was born last summer. That event was also the inspiration for **Road Less Travelled** and **Time Marches On** - incidentally, not (entirely) autobiographical.

Many thanks to fellow Moonshiners, Pete McGuinness and Rick Macallan for their contributions, to Matthew of b-visible co uk and Chris Edwards for their encouragement, and to Barbara for the artwork.

All tracks written by Mick Bailey, except Middleton Junction Band and Wild Mountain Thyme which are Mick’s arrangements of traditional songs

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MONSTERS ON OUR MOORLANDS

1. **Monsters on our Moorlands** Out on the hills on a bright winter morning
There's a peace that money can't buy
2. **Wild Mountain Thyme** No breath of wind disturbs the ancient moorlands
Under the North's widest skies
3. **Middleton Junction Band**
4. **Skyline** Don't want your monsters on our moorlands
No power stations, concrete, steel and stone
5. **Weighvers' Seaport** These Pennine hills were never yours to plunder
Don't want your turbines leave our hills alone
6. **Pennine Way**
7. **A Trip to Blackpool** We've walked the trails for countless generations
Packhorse routes between the cotton towns
8. **Nathan Bailey** Limers Gate and across the old Long Causeway
Seasons changing, summer green to autumn brown
9. **Road Less Travelled**
10. **Time Marches On** But now they say we should sacrifice our moorlands
To save the world from global warming's threat
11. **Come to Sunny Rochdale!** They'll fill our skies with lines of Blackpool towers
But they say they're green so don't get too upset
12. **Forgotten Hills** "It's just a farm" they say "so what's the problem"
They farm the wind but only when it blows
Don't make much power but hey, they'll keep that quiet
'Cause they farm the profits and there'll be loads of those

Power speculators you know you don't belong here
To save our moors we'll fight down to the line
So stick your turbines where no-one's going to see them
Where the sun never shines.

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