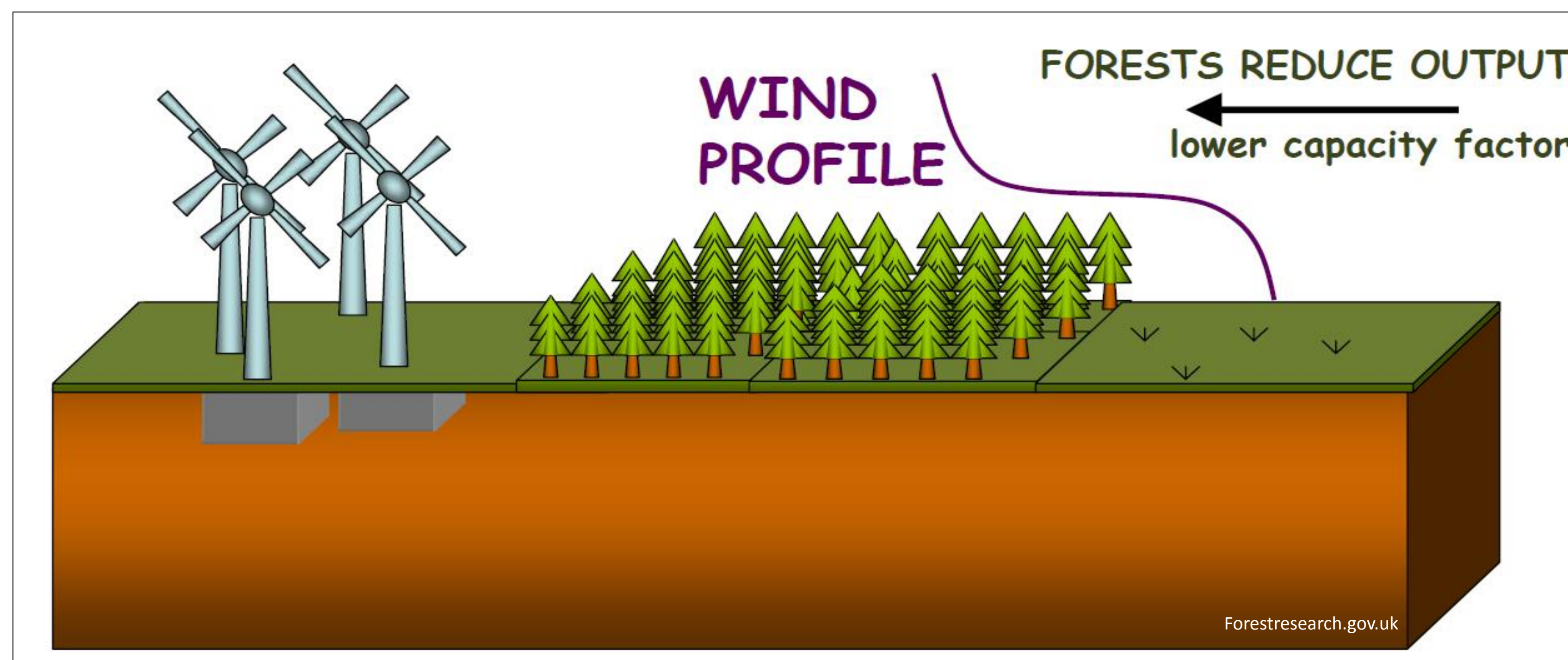


WIND FARMS IN EUROPEAN FOREST

INTRODUCTION

Wind energy is one of the **cleanest energy sources** in the world. The wind energy can't avoid environmental effects, because it doesn't produce waste of fossil fuels. Wind energy offers many ecosystem benefits. But wind energy production can also have negative effects to wildlife habitats.

A primary benefit of using wind-generated electricity is that it can play an important role in reducing the levels of CO₂ emitted into the atmosphere. Wind-generated electricity is produced without emitting CO₂. In addition, manufacturing wind turbines and building wind plants together generate only minimal amounts of CO₂ emissions, in contrast to other power plants.



OFFSHORE

Offshore wind farms are situated on the sea. They are less conspicuous than turbines on land because their apparent size and noise is reduced by distance. The average wind speed is usually considerably higher on open water. So the energy output is also higher. But they are harder to reach than onshore locations.

ONSHORE

An onshore wind farm or wind park is a group of wind turbines in the same location used to produce energy on the land. Their installation place is best on hilly or mountainous regions or on very flat regions where it's nearly every time windy. But some very high wind turbines can also be established in forests.



NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- Causes injury to birds and bats
- Changes visual of landscape
- Decomposition of turbine structures in the future
- Much space in the forest needed if not build high enough

POSITIV IMPACTS

- No CO₂ emissions
- Land is still useable to a certain degree
- Employs People
- Low price for the energy

WIND FARMS IN FOREST

Forests do have the potential of making wind energy, because the forests are only used to produce wood. When there would be wind turbines in the forest the energy demand could be faced better.

There are two options to make the wind energy used. The one way is that they build very high wind turbines, the other is that they do a big clear cut to build their wind turbines. When they do the second option they might get a problem in a few years when the neighboring trees again get higher as you see on the picture with the negative example on the right side. Furthermore the forest ecosystem would be damaged greatly.

PERSONAL OPINION

Our opinion is that wind power is a good technology but we should consider creating a limit when we use it in the forests. At this site we have to take care about the wildlife habitat. We do not really know much about how the ecosystem responds on the wind turbines. But wind power plant can also be built in other areas like on damaged soils and not to close to population.

Positive example for an onshore wind park in the forest



Negative example for an onshore windpark in the forest



Example for an offshore windpark on the sea

