



A Traveller's Notes

Posted by [Heading Out](#) on September 4, 2006 - 11:59pm

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

Tags: [congestion](#), [drax](#), [london](#), [trains](#) [[list all tags](#)]

Having had to take an unanticipated flight to Europe this week, I thought I would pass on a couple of comments about changes in flying conditions after the recent change in security levels, as well as other observations. There really was not a whole lot of change in flying, provided you packed away all your "bathroom cabinet" types of products in your checked luggage. I did and, apart from a question about taking laptops on the plane (I could) had no problems with the flight. The gentleman in front of me, however, had all the domestic products he used set out in front of us, and (at his choice) relegated to a waste bin. The flight from the US to London was as full as usual at this time of year, and London as hectic, it seemed, as the airport always is.

Passing through town on my way North, there were fewer cars in the Center of the City, perhaps because it was a Bank Holiday, though Alan will be pleased to know that the Tube was as busy as ever - if not more so. The Rigger, who occasionally has to bring equipment into Central London, is talking of using a truck running on LPG, since this, I gather, does not have to pay the congestion charge which is the real reason for the cut the number of cars and other vehicles. It made it a lot easier to get around and enjoy.

From London I rode a packed train (even pre-rush hour) up to Nottingham, and the following morning (before dawn, which still comes early in these parts) was off, by car, up the A1. Even that early the left lane of the highway was filled with lorries (trucks) moving steadily North, though as the sun rose, so the number of cars increased.

We reached the land of the Prince Bishops early and so sat and walked a little on [Waldrige Fell](#) , overlooking the original Washington. Looking over the site of the [mine](#) - now undetectable -



that [used to be there](#) , the sky now has a line of wind turbines to the East as well as the couple to the West overlooking [the original Washington](#). That far away they were not that noticeable, but closer up their presence is very evident. Maybe that is why there were none to be seen further south.

This morning there was a major headline and article in The Independent on the [battle over Drax](#) the largest European generator of electricity from coal. Naturally there is a considerable difference between the view of the [plant](#) and that of the protestors. As the family gathered I found that one of us, now renamed Winder, works in the renewable energy field, and our personal discussions today, mirrored in some way the row over the power plant. Somehow it seems that the advent of the TV series has created this idea that technology can solve technical problems in two weeks (for a three-part episode). This is completely unrealistic but yet, the protestors seem not to recognize that the 7% of the UK's electricity needs will have to be replaced with some other solution (which might include conservation - but even that will take time). Time to achieve a purpose is an ongoing part of our discussion here at TOD. If you need to drill 300 wells to meet a target, yet have only 100 rigs to do it, rather than the planned 120, you might still drill the wells and achieve the production, but it is going to take significantly longer time than originally planned to reach full production., with only partial production being reached within the anticipated time frame.

Another short break now - as we, her children, take a beloved blacksmith's lassie finally home, across the Roman Road, and up through Dumfries and Castle Douglas to the bend in the valley of the Ken.

(Note - this was written last Thursday and delayed due to lack of Internet facilities).



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