



THE NATIONAL TRUST



**YORKSHIRE DALES**  
National Park Authority

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR PROTECTED LANDSCAPES AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS CONFERENCE**

### **“COMPROMISES AND OPPORTUNITIES”**

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

#### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- There was an overall positive feeling towards using small scale renewables in protected landscapes and historic buildings.
- There was general agreement that planning authorities in protected areas should accept some visual intrusion from micro-renewables; and that whilst their role is to primarily seek conservation and enhancement of their landscapes and historic buildings, they should be seeking innovative solutions to encourage their adoption wherever possible.
- A clearer vision and more positive “can do” rather than “can’t do” attitude towards small scale renewables needs to be communicated in a more effective way to the general public.
- In encouraging adoption of small scale renewables, planning officers and building conservation officers need to continually improve their knowledge and understanding of the range of technologies and design options available.
- The Council for National Parks has a role in leading and pushing the boundaries in terms of renewable energy usage and the bigger picture of climate change, but it has to balance this with current public opinion and the popular appeal of National Parks nationally.

#### **A DIVERSE RANGE OF OPINIONS WAS EXPRESSED:**

- It was expressed by some that by worrying about the visual impact of projects we are losing sight of the bigger issues of climate change and the impact that will have in future years if nothing is done now. However, a large majority of the general public still expect a “wilderness” or “historic/traditional” experience from our protected landscapes and historic buildings and do not expect this to be changed radically through renewable energy installations.

- Renewable energy production was seen as just one of a much wider range of ways in which carbon stewardship should be promoted including, for example, management of peatland to prevent erosion and associated carbon loss, and energy conservation generally.
- Each National Park Authority should have a carbon emission reduction policy and should demonstrate how this is working. Many have signed up to be carbon neutral but is this sufficient? Arguably NPA's need to do more.

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