

## Renewable energy in the Forest of Bowland AONB: A position statement

### Background

The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan states that the JAC should:

*Provide guidance on the siting and development of appropriate small-scale renewable energy (ie. assuming the purposes of AONB designation are not contravened). – objective 19.3B - and*

*Develop a renewable energy policy for the AONB in partnership with local authorities – objective 19.2F*

We have therefore drawn up the attached position statement, and carried out consultation with the organisations listed below:

- Lancashire county council – senior landscape architect and strategic planning manager
- The planning departments of the councils of Ribble Valley, Lancaster City, Wyre Borough, Pendle Borough, Craven District and Preston City

### Information

The position statement (Appendix 'D') sets out the suggested considerations of the JAC in view of the UK Government's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to increasing the percentage of power generated from renewable sources; and also in the light of their Planning Policy Statement on renewable energy (PPS22).

The document sets out the purposes of a position statement, and offers general guidance on renewable energy developments within the AONB. In particular that:

***3.3 The Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee considers that medium to large scale renewable energy development is not appropriate within the Forest of Bowland AONB (or in locations beyond the boundary where development would affect its setting and character) as it has significant potential to adversely affect the natural beauty of the AONB and to compromise the purpose of the statutory designation.***

***3.4 However, the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee considers that micro and small scale renewable energy development may be appropriate within the designated area.***

The document then goes on to deal with different types of renewable energy development and how micro and small scale schemes might best be sited within the AONB.

NB Definitions of micro, small, medium and large scale developments are set out in paragraph 3.2

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the JAC approve this position statement on renewable energy development in the AONB, and publish it on the AONB website.

In addition the statement should be circulated to the local planning authorities within the AONB, and they should be encouraged to refer to the statement within their individual planning policies.