

Policy Area 9 - Renewable Energy (Small scale and large scale) (Delivering Objectives 1 and 6)

Policy Intention: To encourage small-scale renewables that are compatible with the landscape, and discourage large scale schemes in the Parish which will have an impact on the special qualities of the area

NPPF:

The NPPF is supportive of renewable energy development:

Para 95: *To support the move to a low carbon future, LPAs should:*

- *plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions;*
- *actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings; and*
- *when setting any local requirement for a building's sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards.*

97. *To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources. They should:*

- *have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources;*
- *design their policies to maximise renewable and low carbon energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts;*
- *consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources;*
- *support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside such areas being taken forward through neighbourhood planning; and*
- *identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.*

Para 109: *The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes...*

Para 113. *Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites **or landscape areas** will be judged. Distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites, so that protection is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the*

	<p><i>contribution that they make to wider ecological networks.</i></p> <p>Para 115: Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty."</p>
<p>Local Planning Policy:</p> <p>NNPA Core Strategy</p>	<p>EXISTING POLICY:</p> <p><u>Core Strategy Northumberland National Park (2009)</u></p> <p><u>Policy 1 - Delivering Sustainable Development</u> <i>In order to deliver sustainable development all development proposals will be required to be accompanied by a Sustainability Statement which will demonstrate the extent to which the development:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Conserves and enhances the special qualities of the National Park;</i> <i>b. Makes efficient use of land, materials, and infrastructure;</i> <i>c. Provides opportunities for all to understand and enjoy the special qualities of the National Park;</i> <i>d. Promotes the local communities economic and social well being and their ability to access services;</i> <i>e. Reduces the causes and impacts of climate change, particularly by maximising renewable energy generation and energy efficiency in buildings;</i> <i>f. Demonstrates high quality design and sustainable construction;</i> <i>g. Promotes accessibility via public transport, cycling, or walking;</i> <i>h. Conserves scarce resources;</i> <i>i. Conserves water resources, air, and soils;</i> <i>j. Reduces the amount of waste produced and increases the amount recycled; and</i> <i>k. Prevents inappropriate development in areas which are at risk of flooding or which contribute to the risk of flooding.</i> <p><u>Policy 2: Climate Change</u></p> <p><i>In order to contribute to mitigating climate change and assisting adaptation to the impacts of climate change the National Park Authority will: Facilitate the achievement of regional targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting proposals which:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Focus development in the most sustainable locations within the National Park;</i> <i>b. Minimise the need to travel especially by private car;</i> <i>c. Include opportunities for home working;</i> <i>d. Promote walking, cycling, and the use of public transport.</i> <i>e. Increase small scale renewable energy generation;</i>

f. Minimise energy and water use and waste generation; and

g. Attain the highest environmental standards.

h. Promoting and enhancing the conservation of peat as a carbon store within the National Park.

Policy 4 Major Development within

Policy 4 applies to Major Development (which is classified as any development which is likely to have a significant impact on the special qualities of the Park.

Policy 4: Major Development within the National Park

Major development will only take place in exceptional circumstances where proven to be in the public interest. The applicant will be required to demonstrate:

a. The need for the development, including any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy and local communities;

b. The cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the area or, meeting the need for it in some other way;

c. Any detrimental effects on: the special qualities of the National Park; the ability for the public to understand and enjoy the special qualities; the setting of historic assets; natural resources; and the transport network and the extent to which these could be mitigated;

d. Any positive effects on: the special qualities of the National Park; the ability for the public to understand and enjoy the special qualities; natural resources; and the transport network;

e. The cumulative impact of the development when viewed with other proposals;

f. The extent to which the proposal is designed and sited to respect the character of the landscape; and where appropriate, the settlement in which it lies; and

g. The scope for adequate restoration of the land once the use has ceased.

Northumberland National Park Landscape SPD - (see Landscape Policy 6 for extracts where the acceptability of different types of development are explored)

Tynedale Planning Policies

Tynedale Local Plan (saved policy)

Policy CS17

As an exception to Policy CS16, domestic scale renewable energy schemes including individual wind turbines will be permitted where connection to the National Grid is not viable provided that:

(a) they are not visually intrusive either individually or in combination with other proposals; and

	<p><i>(b) they would not adversely affect adjoining uses in terms of noise, vibration or electromagnetic interference; and (c) proposals include a satisfactory scheme, which will ensure that the site is restored to its original condition once the generating operations have ceased.</i></p> <p>Tynedale Core Strategy - Energy Chapter outlines Kielder as an area of least constraint for commercial scale wind farm development.</p> <p><u>Core Strategy Policy EN2</u></p> <p>The development of commercial scale renewable energy schemes will be permitted provided that all of the following criteria are satisfied:</p> <p>(a) There is no significant adverse impact (either directly or cumulatively with other proposals) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amenity, health and safety of local residents. continued... • The character or appearance of the landscape. • The natural environment and biodiversity • Areas and sites of archaeological, architectural or historic interest. • The character and setting of nationally and internationally important designated areas including Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site, Northumberland National Park, North Pennines AONB and designated or potential SSSIs. • Agricultural land quality. • Ground conditions. • Air and water quality. • Noise and vibration levels. • Aircraft and radar systems. <p>(b) Proposals within the North Pennines AONB must demonstrate that the development is in the national interest and that there are no suitable alternative sites in less sensitive areas.</p> <p>(c) All proposals should include details of associated works such as access roads, ancillary buildings and electricity transmission lines and their likely impact.</p> <p>(d) All proposals should include a satisfactory scheme for the restoration of the site after decommissioning. In applying this Policy significant weight will be given to the wider environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy generation.</p>
<p>Engagement:</p>	<p>Community Questionnaire:</p> <p>Questionnaire responses to the question: "Which of the following ways of producing local energy should the plan encourage?" - high proportion of people responded positively to small scale renewables, less than 20% support for larger scale renewables (although scale was not defined in the questionnaire)</p> <p>Further engagement with the Community is ongoing with a questionnaire having been sent round by the Parish Council, focusing on the issue of large scale wind proposals - feedback awaited.</p>

Evidence:	Evidence to be compiled by Landscape Architects with regard to important vistas/horizons/landscapes within the Parish that could be affected by large scale wind farm development (either within the Parish or outside) Landscape SPDs from National Park and Northumberland County Council contain detail about appropriate scale of development within different landscape character areas. ARUPs report done for Alnwick and Tynedale Council?
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