



The countryside charity
North and East Yorkshire

CPRENEY the countryside charity: Our approach to solar-position statement

February 2022

The generation and supply of low carbon energy will be core to achieving our goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2045 or earlier. This will require a transformation of our energy system over the next 20–30 years. The scale and immediacy of the threat to the climate and our countryside means that change is necessary now. The countryside will have a key part to play in delivering that change. This will bring with it benefits, but also challenges such as an increased amount of land being needed for renewable energy technologies.

The current model of renewable energy development has resulted in some poor outcomes for landscapes, the environment and rural communities. CPRENEY wants to change this and believes it is possible to achieve the net-zero transition, including the introduction of new solar developments, in harmony with our wider environmental and social objectives. To achieve this, however, the model of development and planning must be radically different.

This means taking a strategic planning approach to development of renewable energy assets at the local level and ensuring that local communities are empowered to help shape their local energy response. CPRENEY will, therefore, only support solar developments which:

- minimise impacts on landscapes, tranquility and heritage, through appropriately scaled development.
- minimise the impacts on the Best and Most Versatile agricultural land.
- bring net benefits to biodiversity.
- benefit the rural economy; and
- are supported or owned by local communities.

Renewable energy generation and climate change mitigation must also be maximized within urban areas and priority given to using previously developed land in line with CPREs 'brownfield first' policy.

CPRENEY will advocate for solar schemes to be incorporated into designs for new roofscape, particularly those associated with commercial and office development wherever possible.

Further support will be offered to suitable retrofitting schemes promoting the additions of renewables to existing building stock ensuring high standards of energy efficiency and climate mitigation are achieved in line with legally binding climate targets.