



ON STREAM: Betsy Bell and project consultant Mark Cropper of Ellergreen Hydro at the intake pipe above Halton Gill

Small-scale hydro scheme powers up

A £150,000 pioneering renewable energy project has been completed in the Yorkshire Dales.

The 40kW hydro scheme at Manor Farm in the Littondale hamlet of Halton Gill is the first of its kind in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and will generate enough energy to power 12 homes.

The project has been completed by landowners Betsy and Robert Bell of the Langcliffe Hall estate. Mrs Bell said it was not only a sound diversification project for farmers and landowners but crucial in securing a cost-effective energy supply for the future.

She said: "Even though it has hardly rained since we installed the equipment three weeks ago, it has already generated 2,320 kW of energy."

The couple, who are members of the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), praised the help they received from the national park and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

Water flowing down the valley above Halton Gill is captured in an inlet pipe. It is then fed through 450 metres of pipeline to a small turbine in a traditional stone building some 100 metres below.

The project cost around £150,000 to install, a third of which was funded by a grant through the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

Dorothy Fairburn, CLA Yorkshire Regional Director, said: "Halton Gill is a fine example of how farmers and landowners can help deliver the country's renewable energy requirements for the future.

"The Yorkshire Dales National Park has huge potential for small scale hydro schemes such as this, which provide an alternative source of income for the landowner and contribute towards the region's supply of energy from sustainable sources."

● **More hydro schemes come on stream – page 26 and 27**