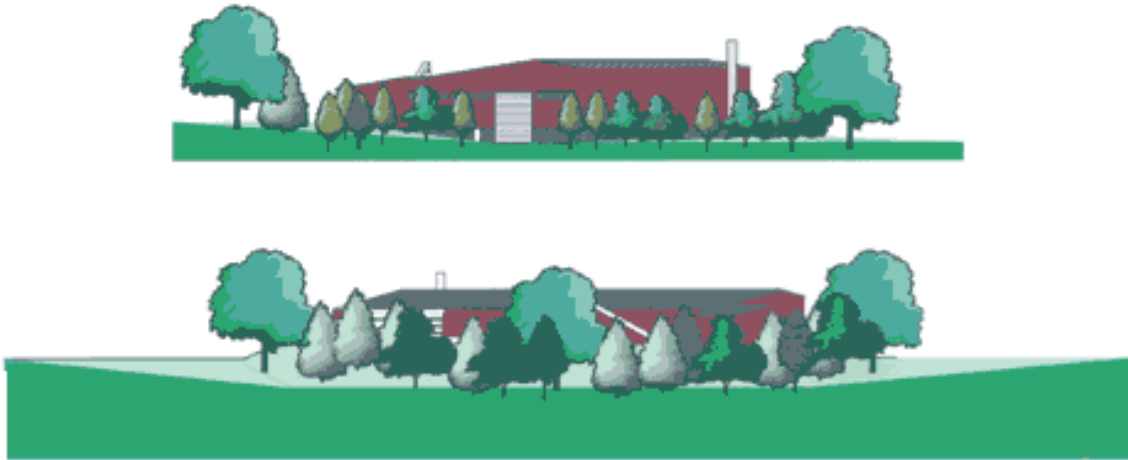


## Bio-mass renewable energy facility



A number of local business interests have inquired about investing in a green energy renewables facility at Ratherheath to provide communal heating and electrical supply: making the site self sufficient and potentially a nett exporter of renewable energy. At the Masterplanning stage it was envisaged that utilities on the site will be provided by a communal 2-3MW combined heat and power bio-mass plant fuelled by locally sourced wood chip and waste wood. This will achieve the dual objectives of enabling the LDNP to achieve a renewable energy generating capacity and stimulating the failed commercial forestry market in the locality: enabling sustainable biodiversity encouraging broadleaf woodland to replace barren conifer plantations with replanting in native renewable coppicing broadleaf woodland.

AW Jenkinson, Forest Products, at Clifton, Penrith are one of the UKs largest timber suppliers, who advise that a 2-3MW Combined Heat and Power [CHP] Plant facility would have a consumption demand of around 25,000 tonnes per annum of biomass products: which would be recovered timber waste, forest residues and arboricultural arisings, and sawmill co-products. At this scale of operation the CHP would be of an appropriate size to encourage local downstream market supply formation with initially up to 7500 tonnes sourced from within the LDNP and the locality: gradually increasing as the CHP's presence acted as a catalyst to change woodland management culture from amenity to productive harvesting capacity.

The sites location close to the M6 and equidistant between the forests of the Scottish Borders and North Wales would make the site an ideal location to guarantee security and continuity of supply. Siting a biomass facility at Ratherheath would ensure efficient haulage operations and reductions in current carbon miles accrual..

Advice from United Utilities is that the grid network adjacent to Ratherheath would be a good location for a substation transformer connection where rural energy generation at a local level would assist in the aim of achieving infrastructure security by de-centralising energy supplies.