

Project profile



Client

National Park Authority

Products

Dimplex ground source heat pump

Partners

Earthwise Scotland

Dimplex heat pumps hit the peaks for energy savings

A flagship new £1 million visitor centre project with a seal of approval from HRH the Prince of Wales, has been built in the heart of the Peak District using a Dimplex heat pump as part of its model for conservation present and future.

Located at Edale, near the start of the famous Pennine Way in the UK's busiest National Park, the Moorland Centre is the first of its kind in the country, providing an important environmental learning experience, a national focus for moorland research as well as facilities for the local community.

The building was officially opened in September 2006 by the Duke of Devonshire but the whole design was several years in the planning. Funding had to be secured in addition to approvals for the building and minimising energy use to improve the carbon footprint was carefully planned in at the early design stage.

Working with Earthwise Scotland, one of Dimplex's approved and accredited installer partners, the National Park Authority specified a Dimplex SI30CG ground source heat pump to operate the building's underfloor heating system.

There was plenty of room in the grounds for Earthwise to install the two ground loop collection systems but availability of space in the plant room was a practical aspect to consider as part of the specification, explains Jonathan Wilson of Earthwise.

"There were a number of different routes we could go but Dimplex was the outstandingly obvious solution. Not only is the product range reliable it also gives us high power performance, with 30kW output from just one unit as opposed to the two we might otherwise have had to specify," he said.

Paul Harrop, head of property for the Peak District National Park Authority said that the energy usage was carefully forecast and will be monitored over the coming years.

"It was vital for us that this important project is able to demonstrate minimal adverse environmental impact as part of our policy. Energy use is a significant part of the running costs of this hardworking building and our energy saving measures had to be not only environmentally friendly but also practical. The centre's heating has not really been put to the tough test yet but so far everything seems to be working and I'm optimistic that when we have some figures, they will be in line with forecasts," he says.

As well as the Dimplex heat pump, other energy saving measures include a trombe wall that absorbs and stores the sun's natural energy plus a living roof of sedum turf, intersected by a waterfall tumbling over glass panels into a pool at the entrance.

The Moorland Centre is the cornerstone in the development of a £4.7million 'The Moors for the Future Partnership', a project funded largely by the Heritage Lottery Fund and hosted by the Peak District National Park. Significant contributions have also come from other bodies including National Trust, the Countryside Agency and numerous government funds and grants.



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