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HYDROPOWER FOR HEREFORDSHIRE?

Abstraction Licensing

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Our position on hydropower

- Support Government's targets for the use of renewable energy;
- Recognise the potential benefits of small-scale schemes;
- Recognise the cumulative contribution that schemes can make to the reduction in the emissions of greenhouse gases;
- Recognise the potential benefits of small-scale hydropower to rural communities - meeting local needs for power.

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Our Position (Continued)

- We take a positive view of reasonable and well designed proposals and will work with you to agree viable & sustainable projects;
- Where inappropriate for its location we will advise at as early a stage as possible.

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What the law says.....

- Hydropower schemes are subject to the same statutory framework as other abstractions;
- Abstraction and / or impoundment licences are likely to be required.
- Water Resources Act 1991
- Water Act 2003

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What is an Abstraction & Impoundment

- Abstraction:
 - Taking water from a source, either surface water or groundwater (boreholes/wells), irrespective of whether all or part of the abstracted water is going back to the source or not.

- Impoundment:
 - Impede or obstruct water by means of a dam, weir or other structure, or the alteration of an existing structure.

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The Key Issues:

- Volumes involved mean that its local impact may be significant between points of abstraction & discharge;
- Must be satisfied the scheme does not prejudice our duties in respect of water resources, flood defence, water quality, fisheries & conservation;
- an impounding licence & discharge consent may be required as well as an abstraction licence.

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The Key Issues (continued):

- Reliable, direct measurement and control of abstracted volumes will be required;
- Scheme design must be robust & fail safe, so that in the event of a problem the river is not affected;
- Abstraction licences will be time limited in accordance with policy (2015);
- Abstractions will be restricted to protect low flows and /or where important to local fishery or ecology

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The Key Issues (continued):

- Hydropower can have a serious effect on fisheries.
- Installation could act as a barrier to fish movement - May need to install fish pass.
- Can kill fish moving through turbines - Obligated to install screens that prevents their descent into the turbines.
- Impact on protected species (Habitats Directive).

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Licence Application Costs

- Application fee - £135.00
- Advertising - £500 (approximate)
- Advert admin fee - £100
- Annual fee is not payable in respect of water authorised for the use in the production of electricity or any form of power by generating station or apparatus of a capacity of not more than five megawatts.