

Grenville Ham
The Green Valleys CIC
CRiC
Beaufort Street
Crickhowell
Powys
NP8 1BN

Our reference:
WA/056/0038/001/WR272

Your reference:

Date: 4th July 2011

Dear Grenville

Proposal for a hydroelectric-power scheme at National Grid reference SO 11830 18740

In principle, we do not have any objections to your proposal and you can now make a formal application by filling in the following forms.

- WR 173: Application for a full, transfer or impounding licence
- WR 174: Application for a full or transfer licence
- WR 175: Application for an impounding licence
- FD 004: Application for Flood Defence Consent

I enclose an application pack, with guidance notes WR176 and FD005, for you to fill in or you can download the forms from our website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

You will need to provide additional information with your formal application that has not already been provided. You will need to take the following information into account:

Scheme design

You need to provide details and scale drawings of the intake structure, turbine and discharge area with your formal application.

Hydrology

Flow modelling

The flow estimates you have provided from *LowFlows* flow modelling software are consistent with Environment Agency flow estimates derived from *Wallingford Hydro Solutions Low Flows Enterprise* software.

You have carried out flow measurements which were submitted to us in April 2010. These flow gaugings did not measure the flows at times of the lowest flows. However they were sufficient for us to deduce that the Low Flows flow estimates are reasonably accurate.

While we recommend that you undertake further flow gaugings particular at very low flows, we will accept an application without further flow gaugings. Further flow gaugings is a voluntary measure on your part.

Residual flow

We require a residual flow to pass over the abstraction point and continue to flow down the watercourse into the un-named watercourse downstream. In our letter dated 05/11/2009 we indicated that a hands-off flow of Q95 will be required and 25% of the flow above Q95 must remain in the Nant y Wenynen in order to retain flow variation in the channel.

Maximum abstraction rate

We agree to the proposed maximum instantaneous abstraction rate of 20 l/s.

Fisheries

Fish easement

No fish easement structure is required at this site as no fish are expected to reach this part of the un-named watercourse.

Screening

There is no need for any additional screening at the abstraction point other than the proposed Coanda screen.

Brown trout may be present in the vicinity of the discharge pipe so a 12mm screen will be required at this point to prevent fish from accessing the turbine. You will need to provide details and scale drawings of the turbine and return area referencing the screen size, or provide information showing that that fish cannot enter the discharge pipe leading to the turbine with your formal application.

Biodiversity

Crayfish

This site was not considered to be significant for crayfish. You do not need to take any further action on this issue.

Otters

Otters are a protected species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010; it is an offence to disturb otters in their breeding or resting places. The pipeline route should avoid areas of dense vegetation, scrub, brash (wood) piles, or tree roots which are habitats that could be used by otter. If any such areas are to be cleared there must be an otter survey in advance of the pipe being laid.

Construction work should be restricted to daylight hours only to avoid disturbance to otters.

Nesting birds

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is illegal to disturb nesting birds. To ensure that you comply with this legislation we recommend that any tree and shrub felling that the proposal may involve takes place outside the bird breeding period (March - September inclusive) wherever possible. Vegetation removal within this period will require a survey for nesting birds, and nesting sites will need to be afforded appropriate protection. The best time for vegetation removal is between October and the end of February.

Tree removal / Bats

Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru

Plas-yr-Afon, Parc Busnes Llanelirwg, Llanelirwg, Caerdydd,
CF3 0EY
Linell gwasanaethau cwsmeriaid: 08708 506 506
Epost: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.asiantaeth-amgylchedd.cymru.gov.uk

Environment Agency Wales

Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park, St Mellons, Cardiff,
CF3 0EY
Customer services line: 08708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.wales.gov.uk

Bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Any mature or ivy clad trees, or trees with cracks, splits, loose bark or cavities should be considered as having features of use to bats. If such trees are to be removed they must be surveyed by a suitably qualified individual for evidence of use by/presence of bats. If this species is found to be present or there is evidence of use, the Countryside Council for Wales must be consulted for advice on how to proceed.

Formal application

You should send the completed forms, any extra sheets you have used to answer questions, and additional information to:

Permitting Support Centre
Water Resources Team
Quadrant 2
99 Parkway Avenue
Parkway Business Park
Sheffield
S9 4WF

Please quote our reference number WA/056/0038/001 with your application.

If you have not already done so, you should now apply to your local planning authority for any planning permission you need for your proposal.

If you fill in the necessary forms correctly, we will confirm in writing that we have received your formal application and tell you when we will give you our decision. We have up to three months (four months if we need to advertise your proposal) to give you our decision, and can extend this period if you agree to this in writing.

You will have to pay an application fee of £135 for the abstraction and impoundment licences. Please enclose a cheque, made payable to the Environment Agency, with your completed forms.

The application fee is separate from any annual charges you will have to pay for any abstraction licence.

We will not consider your formal application without the correct application fee. If we turn down your application, or you withdraw it, we will not usually refund the application fee. However, we will refund it if we tell you to withdraw your formal application and send in a different one.

You will also have to pay a fee of £50 for the Flood Defence Consent. We will send you a separate letter to let you know when you need to pay this fee. Please do not send in this fee yet.

We never guarantee that we will grant the licences, approval and consent you need for your hydroelectric-power scheme, and our decision on your proposal is based on the information we have at the moment. We cannot be held responsible if any changes in the law, or the quality or availability of water, affect your proposal and any formal application you make in the future.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Newnam
Hydropower Account Manager

Direct dial : 02920 245104

Direct email : rachel.newnam@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Plas-yr-Afon, Parc Busnes Llaneirwg, Llaneirwg, Caerdydd,
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