

Key points about Hexham River Hydro for anyone who is particularly interested in our fish (and catching them)

November 21st 2011

1. Our current bid for energyshare funding is really important to help us fund the next phase of work, which includes environmental impact work to take into account protection of all wildlife that depend upon in this important habitat, including all species of fish. Given the importance of this work, we hope that everyone will support our funding bid, which you can do by going to www.energyshare.com/hrh and clicking on VOTE FOR US.
2. Hexham River Hydro is a run-of-river hydro electric scheme. It is NOT a dam. We will not be building any obstruction across the river.
3. The project is still at an early phase. Much work remains to be done and we're committed to getting this right for the whole community.
4. We know that the Tyne is an important resource for angling, as well as for many other activities in our area. So we have – from the very start – been designing the scheme with fish in mind. Here are some examples of the things we have been doing in this regard:
 - We have been in dialogue with Tyne Rivers Trust from the start. We also invited their representative to join the important site meeting for the hydro scheme's initial feasibility study.
 - We have discounted a potential design for the hydro scheme that would not co-locate outflows with the fish pass being designed by Tyne Rivers Trust (co-location of outflow is important to enable fish to find the fish pass rather than being tempted to travel up the turbine). We have been happy to disregard a design that could generate more energy because it was not compatible with the fish pass.
 - The turbine design we are selecting is the Archimedes screw turbine, which the Environment Agency and others describe as "fish-friendly". Our initial feasibility report noted that other types of turbine might generate more energy at the site, but we plan to use the Archimedes screw turbine because of the importance of using a turbine widely acknowledged to be fish-friendly.
5. The proposed size of our scheme is very modest. We are proposing to install a single, 100kW Archimedes screw turbine. The initial feasibility report prepared by our external consultants, Inter Hydro Technology, noted that a scheme of up to 680kW could theoretically be installed at this site in compliance with Environment Agency guidelines for hydro schemes.
6. A range of studies has been carried out to assess this technology's impact of Archimedes screw turbines on fish and invertebrates, several of them by the UK's leading consultants, Fishtek. We are using the recommendations from these studies to inform our scheme design. More information is available at: <http://www.fishtek.co.uk/hydroTurbineResearch.htm> <http://www.fishtek.co.uk/impactAssessments.htm> . [Archimedes leading edge assessment \(03.06.11\) \(2\).pdf](#) . [GPG – Arch screw guidance – final 27 Sep 2011](#) .(This latter is an Environment Agency publication)
7. We have been consulting with anglers and will continue to do so. We have been pleased to receive detailed comments from four local angling groups. We have provided an initial response to these comments and invited the angling groups to meet with us at their earliest available opportunity to discuss all of the points in more detail.
8. Angling groups are just one type of interest group with whom we are consulting. We are also consulting with many other community groups. And we will continue to do so.
9. We are not just doing the consulting we would be required to do under law for such a development. We are doing lots more than that! It is important to us that all interested local groups and individuals can comment on the scheme, shape its development and share in (what we hope will be) its success.
10. If we haven't proactively reached out to consult you and you think we should have done so, you are free to reach out to us and we encourage you to do so. There are many ways we can be contacted, as has been the case throughout. Both Hexham Community Partnership and Transition Tynedale have contact information on their websites.
11. The Environment Agency will ultimately judge whether or not we have successfully designed a scheme that is appropriate for the site and compatible with all wider environmental aspects. If the Environment Agency is not satisfied then they will not permit us to proceed.