

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Roe Valley Country Park Hydro Restoration Scheme

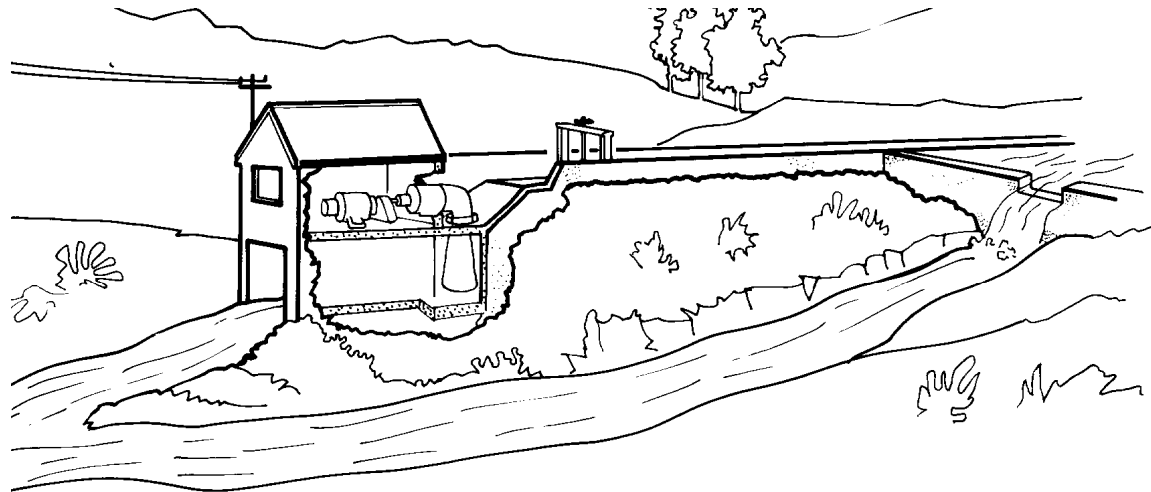
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NIEA Strategy Unit



What I'm going to talk about this evening

- Policy background
- Legal context
- Current Programme
- Stakeholder Update – December 2008



Policy Context

NI Sustainable Development Strategy



PSA 22 Protecting our environment and reducing our Carbon Footprint

Establish NI as a world class exemplar in the development and use of renewable energy technology



DOE Sustainable Development AP – NIEA ISO14001 Environmental Management System

Policy Context

Promotion of the historical built heritage & environmental education

**Restoration to provide benchmark for other schemes
– Better Regulation**

Public Sector Energy Campaign (PSEC) / Carbon Trust

Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF)



Legislative Context

**Planning (EIA) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008,
schedule 4**

Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966

Article 6, Habitats Directive

The Water Environment (WFD) Regulations (NI) 2003

**Water Abstraction & Impoundment (Licensing)
Regulations (NI) 2006**

Planning (NI) Order 1991 Art. 42 (listed building consent)

Miscellaneous Provisions (NI) Act 2006 Sect.25

Programme - EIA

The following issues are examined by the EIA:

Land Use
Socio-Economic
Traffic
Cultural Heritage
Ecology & Nature
Conservation
Landscape & Visual
Air
Noise
Geology & Soils
Water



EIA commenced in Sep 2007
to complete early 2009

Programme – EIA: Article 6 Assessment

Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EC, an assessment is required where a project may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site.

River Roe & Tributaries SAC

Primary Qualifying Features – **Atlantic Salmon**

Other Qualifying Features:

Water courses of plain to montane levels with *Ranunculus fluitans* & Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation

Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* & *Blechnum* in the British Isles

Otter

Sea, Brook & River Lamprey

When undertaking an appropriate assessment of impacts at a site ALL features of European importance (primary and non primary) need to be considered.

Programme - Engineering

- **Progress to Date**
 - **Topographical Survey Commissioned and complete: June 2008**
 - **Condition Survey of Millrace mostly complete: Jul 2008**
 - **Numerical/hydraulic model of Millrace produced: Aug 2008**
 - **Draft design completed: Sep 2008 – and under assessment**
- **Key Milestones**
 - **Tender document issue: Late Oct 2008**
 - **Preferred Bidder: Jan 2009**
 - **Detailed Design: Jan 2009**
 - **Planning Application Feb 2009**
 - **Start On-site: May 2009**
 - **Completion On-site: Dec 2009**

Programme - Engineering

Mill race restoration – to include repair of breaches, silt removal etc;

Engineering where possible to go beyond compliance;

Reuse of the Ritter Power house with preservation of internal equipment – to lead to further future Museum development



Programme – Engineering (WFD Compliance)

Licence from WMU will only be issued if the scheme complies with WFD and A&I in terms of:

Reserve Flow & shut down;

River's good ecological status;

Provision of a post implementation monitoring plan



Restoration Programme Summary

Remove boulders and construct new intake arrangement at the weir;

Clean-out and repair millrace;

Construct new power intake at the end of the millrace;

Install new underground penstock (pipe) to the powerhouse.



Restoration Programme Summary

Install new turbine and generator in the existing Ritter's powerhouse;

Existing equipment to be removed and stored for display;

Upgrade existing mains electricity connection to the NIE network;

Formalise Roe Valley CP Management Plan to include scrutiny of hydro



Stakeholder Update

NIEA will update Loughs Agency, Roe Anglers & interested stakeholders – **Dec 2008**

Presentations will be given by:

EIA Team

Fisheries Expert

Engineering Team – including draft design and intended engineering approach

Update given before commencement of formal consultation process with statutory consultees