

## Appendix A: Council's letter to the Environment Agency, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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Mr Alastair Wilson  
Environmental Planning Specialist (Water Resources)  
Environment Agency  
Hertfordshire and North Area Office  
Alchemy Offices  
Bessemer Road  
Welwyn Garden City  
AL7 1HE

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Alastair,

### Re: Hertford Hydro Project

I trust you are well.

As part of our 2021/22 Financial Year planning, we will shortly be conducting a final risk assessment as to whether a planning application for the Hertford Hydro Project at Hertford Theatre, which we have programmed for submission in March 2021, is likely to be successful. Our risk assessment review will commence on Wednesday 20th January. The EA's response to a planning application is very likely to be a key element taken into consideration by our Development Management Committee when determining the application and thus, you will appreciate, we wish to take account of your current position in our risk assessment.

We understand that you are not in a position to give us your definitive view in advance of a planning application. As you are aware, however, the council has been working with the EA for some time on this scheme and so we are seeking confirmation of your current position. We would be grateful if you could confirm whether you are minded to support a planning application for the Hertford Hydro if a planning application was formally submitted by the council in March 2021.

With our timescales in mind, we would welcome your final feedback on this matter, addressed to me at [jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk), by close of play on Friday 15th January.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Jonathan Geall  
Head of Housing and Health

## Appendix B: EA's response, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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Jonathan Geall  
Head of Housing & Health  
East Herts District Council  
Pegs Lane  
Hertford  
SG13 8EQ

Our ref: Castle Weir HEP

Date: 08 January 2021

Sent by email to  
[Jonathan.Geall@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Geall@eastherts.gov.uk)

Dear Jonathan

### Castle Weir Hydropower Scheme, Hertford

Thank you for your letter dated the 14 December 2020

The Environment Agency supports the development of sustainable hydropower schemes. The design of a hydropower scheme needs to be proportionate to the flow regime and provide adequate environmental protection. This will include not contributing towards a material change to the local flood risk.

Renewable technologies like hydropower are often seen as not being exhaustible but they do have limits. A hydropower scheme will need to be sustainable in relation to the local environment in which it is to operate. Individual schemes have to be based on those local environmental constraints and not viewed solely from an energy demand perspective.

We have been working with David Thorogood and your appointed consultants, JBA Group on some of these matters. The consultants are now considering the hydrological data to prepare their turbine design option(s). The design capacity of the turbine will be better served by maximising the medium flows rather being oversized to capture the occasional higher flows. This does come back to the sustainability aspect of renewable technologies and not to over expect what can be delivered by an individual scheme. We will await further correspondence from your consultants on the design option(s).

There are still matters that will need to satisfactory resolution before an application can be determined. The scheme will need to incorporate a fish pass with an associated reserve flow, and an amenity flow for other parts of weir. These flow requirements will also be supplied from flows generated by the Rivers Lee and Mimram. These different flow requirements will need to be safeguarded either through the scheme design and/or by local monitoring arrangements. This could include the use of the Agency's flow gauging stations and/or the existing water level recorder located at the weir.

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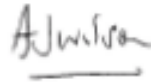


The potential changes to the local flood risk are always important parts of our response to a planning application. In November 2019 we did object to a previous application due to the lack of an appropriate Flood Risk Assessment. It is recommended to avoid a similar outcome separate discussions are commenced to progress this important planning aspect. A copy of our letter dated 14 November 2019 is attached.

We remain committed to assisting the Council with their proposal, and will wherever possible provide further technical advice on this scheme. It is important for the Council to recognise the type of scheme that is feasible compared to the financial costs involved. This will be a matter for your consultants but I'm always willing to explain the Agency's regulatory role linked to hydropower schemes.

Where there are matters you would like to clarify, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Wilson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alastair Wilson  
Environmental Planning Specialist (Water Resources)