

Date: 2nd February 2026

To the Sustainable Abstraction Team, Environment Agency, ref: DCISOldWallsS52

Subject: Objection to Section 52 notice

We object to the Section 52 notice that has been issued to Mr Miles Fursdon on 6 January 2026.

Ashden has been awarding climate innovators since 2001 through the Ashden Awards, and the Waterleat Lodge Hydro project was a runner-up for an Award in 2004. Micro-hydro energy is a renewable source of clean energy which displaces fossil fuels.

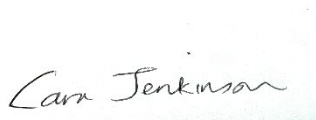
The Waterleat scheme has been lawfully operating and generating green energy with no carbon emissions for 30 years, producing 12GWh of electricity. The scheme complies with all regulations, and there is no damage to fish. The proposed change to water abstraction will reduce energy production by 70%.

The scheme has strong community involvement at local level, with educational visits from infants to university students. The scheme has welcomed 3,000 visitors helping them understand renewables with information, discussions and practical models for young people.

The scheme has been a powerful exemplar, with learning shared to The Eden Project, The Dartmoor Society Debate Day, Forest of Dean Sustainable Futures Convention, and the Soil Association AGM.

We hope that this Section 52 notice will not be enacted.

Yours sincerely,



Cara Jenkinson
Acting Head of Sustainable Towns and Cities
Ashden Climate Solutions

