



30 January 2026

Ref : DCISOldWallsS52

Ref Old Walls micro hydroelectric generation site, Widecombe, Dartmoor.

To whom it may concern

I write this letter on behalf of Mr Gerry Pope , Principal of GP Electronics, Bovey Tracey Devon. He is unable to complete it himself due to [REDACTED].

He established GP Electronics in 1962 inventing and producing a variety of electronic items.

In 1972, following a request from engineer, Mr Rupert Armstrong – Evans Gerry devised an electronic means of governing the speed of a hydro electric turbine for use with micro and mini hydro systems which, until then had to rely on complex, expensive and bulky mechanical governors which were difficult to maintain thereby putting them out of reach of small, potentially productive hydro sites.. Thus, was born the GP Electronic Load Controller. (ELC)

The Old Walls hydro site was used extensively as a test site to develop and refine the ELC and later, grid connection equipment which allowed small hydro sites to export power to the grid for the first time.

Gerrys technology was embraced by the UK Governments overseas aid department (known then as the Intermediate technology development Group ITDG) . He made nearly 50 trips to developing and third world countries with representatives of ITDG and freely shared his knowledge and technology with local engineers so they could produce their own ELCs and associated equipment. At no time did Gerry ask for or receive any royalties or payments for his knowledge.

In 1986 Gerry was presented with an International Inventors Award by King Gustav of Sweden. A few years later an article in the New Scientist magazine cited Gerrys ELC as the most significant advance in micro hydro in the 20th century.

His technology is now being used in over 70 countries providing power to thousands of remote communities, hospitals, schools and light industry providing clean power and saving millions of tons of carbon emissions.

The Old Walls site played a vital role in this process and is a near perfect example of what is achievable with micro -hydro, and the Fursdon family should be congratulated for their dedication and help given to Gerry in developing this technology.

P.P. John A. Wills

Gerry Pope

Founder and Principal, GP Electronics