

From: IEPP DEVON & CORNWALL <IEPPDEVONandCORNWALL@environment-agency.gov.uk>

Sent on: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 1:49:36

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To: Gail Fursdon - Waterleat

Subject: Old Walls - Fish screen and flows

Dear Mr Fursdon

Following the site visit and your subsequent email requesting that we progress with developing our proposals for your abstraction, please see below. This is similar but not identical to as presented in the previous Options Appraisal report shared with you.

1. Screening

Preferred option for screening –

Maximum 6mm mesh screening at head of leat (design to be agreed with the EA). This would need to be appropriately sized and angled/located to achieve the required approach velocity and sweeping flow.

This would require a power cable to the head of leat for a self-cleaning screen.

With the screening in this location, the full quantity of water abstracted could be used to generate power at the turbine.

If this is not feasible –

Maximum 6mm mesh screening set back (i.e. the current screen location) with improved bywash facility (design of screen and bywash to be agreed with the EA)

This would require an upgrade to the existing set back screen and an upgraded bywash would be required. The flow for the bywash would be a permanent requirement stipulated on the licence and this flow would be included in the new licensed quantities but not available for power generation as it would not go through the turbine.

Both of these options deliver the desired outcome for safe fish passage but they are markedly different.

We would therefore appreciate your views on which option you consider most feasible and if you have a preference, taking into account the infrastructure changes proposed and the impact on potential energy generation.

2. Flows and abstraction quantities

We are proposing that both of these options would be accompanied by the requirement to cease abstraction for power generation at the Q95 flow value (the Hands Off Flow).

Additionally, we are proposing to limit the abstraction to 35% of the available flow above the hands off flow, up to the existing instantaneous flow and daily maximum. We are not proposing to increase the daily maximum as we understand from the site visit that you would not be able to utilise this additional volume for energy generation.

If the 6mm screening is provided at the head of the leat, we are proposing that the licence requires the transfer of a low, sweetening flow to the leat when flows are below Q95 to ensure that the leat does not dry out.

We are also proposing to include the provision to provide measurement and control of the abstraction at the head of the leat to ensure that only that water which is authorised for abstraction flows along the leat.

This could either be via a hard engineering solution to ensure compliance with HoF, percentage take, maximum take and sweetening flow or automated flow monitoring of river upstream of weir plus automatic sluice. We also plan to formalise the deployment of the tailrace screen as a condition on the new licence.

Please confirm whether you have a preference regarding the two screening options detailed above. If we do not hear from you by Friday 20th June 2025 we will proceed with our preferred option.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Carole Brennan

Water Resources Specialist – Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

