

Fwd: Old Walls Hydro

From Graham Philip May [REDACTED]

Date: Mon 03/08/2026 10:47

To: Shirley Froud [REDACTED]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Graham Philip May [REDACTED]

Date: 27 July 2026 at 12:19:15 BST

To: matthew.meredith@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Subject: Old Walls Hydro

Dear Sirs, I have walked the 2 Moors way in May 2023 and 2025, at those times the Paddle System was not in operation to stop upstream towards the Hydro of Migratory fish.

The design of the Wier and Abstraction point is of poor design, compared to the Abstraction Point of Ditsworthy Warren leat on the Upper river Plym, installed by the EA overseen by Stuart Bray, Devon fisheries Officer, Ditsworthy Warren screen is correctly positioned to stop

Downward migration of smolts being sucked into the leat system, where as Old Walls flow drags fish towards the screen, thus causing possible mortality. There is a By wash System at Old Walls, what records are kept of the operation of the Bywash system and How are the records verified, it would appear it is never open.

The fish pass on the Wier itself is of poor design, particularly the pools below the Wier Making up stream migration difficulty for Migratory fish and Elvers.

I note that SWW have installed an Elver screen at Lopwell Dam at the Abstraction point, This system is required at Old Walls.

Under the licence the compensation flow was reduced by 50% , thus affecting the River Stretch from the Wier down to where the leat rejoins the West Webburn, particularly in Periods of long Dry, hot summers as we now suffer.

Migratory fish in the river Dart catchment are under serious threat, a pH study by Joshua Eycott-Martin, Determining risk from pH Atlantic Salmon (salmon salar) on the river Dart, Shows the Rivers Webburns as being particularly good spawning tributaries, the West Webburn Having a good flow rate up to and above Grendon Brige high up the river with plenty of Spawning gravel, it is of vital importance to the future of migratory fish that the abstraction Point at Old Walls meet present day regulations to preserve Migratory fish and Elvers.

Your faithfully Graham May, Staverton fishing syndicate, lower Dart riparian owner.



MAY 2025



TAKEN 16th MAY 2023 G May.



margaret greenhill [REDACTED]

Fwd: Hydro vs wind power

1 message

Graham Philip May [REDACTED]

Sat, Aug 1, 2026 at 8:13 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gary Baker [REDACTED]
Date: 1 August 2026 at 08:10:46 BST
To: Graham Philip May [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Hydro vs wind power

The Old Walls Hydro scheme on Dartmoor has a rated output of 90 kW and generates around 400 MWh of electricity each year. By comparison, a single modern offshore wind turbine such as the Vestas V236 has a rated output of 15 MW (15,000 kW)—around 167 times greater than Old Walls Hydro—and can generate up to 80 GWh (80,000 MWh) of electricity annually under suitable conditions, approximately 200 times more energy than the hydro scheme.

Official Vestas information:

<https://www.vestas.com/en/energy-solutions/offshore-wind-turbines/V236-15MW>

This raises the question as to whether hydro schemes such as this are necessary considering g their small contribution to net zero versus significant environmental impact.

Impacts of a weir and power station on downstream migrating Atlantic salmon smolts in a German river

The study found that hydropower infrastructure caused **additional mortality, slower downstream migration**, and increased risk to Atlantic salmon smolts passing a small hydropower installation.

Link:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/rra.3590>

Also

Cada, G.F. (2000). Fish Behavior in Relation to Passage through Hydropower Turbines: A Review. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society.

The review concludes that:

- Fish detect **low-frequency pressure waves and vibrations** using their lateral line.
- Turbine-generated turbulence, pressure fluctuations and vibration can **disorient fish**, alter swimming behaviour and increase susceptibility to turbine entrainment and predation.

The vibration at Totnes weir pool is of course deafening.

Hope this helps

Best regards

Gary

Sent from my iPhone

On 31 Jul 2026, at 15:19, Graham Philip May [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Gary, I may have to attend a planning enquiry team next week regarding Old Walls hydro,

Do you have any info on Wind power vs hydro power that might be useful.

Best wishes Graham.

Sent from my iPad