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2nd July 2015

Your contact is: Mr Jonathan Markwell, Planning

Dear Mr Barrow,

Planning Reference: 150853/SCR

Description of development: Request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion for the installation of two Archimedean Screw turbines (Screws) hydropower infrastructure at Caversham Weir.

Location: Caversham Weir, Kings Meadow, Reading

Information considered (all as received on 14/05/15): Site Location Plan; Site Plan DWG-RG-SP1; Turbine Design DWG-RG-TB; Turbine Details DWG-RG-TB1; Letter from eWaterpower dated 08/05/15

Screening opinion:

It is considered that the proposal does not fall within Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations 2011 (as amended). The proposal falls within the description at paragraph 3(h) of Schedule 2 as an installation for hydroelectric energy production. However, the proposal, based on the information provided, would not exceed the applicable threshold in column 2 of the table in Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (as amended). This is for it is anticipated to have the capacity to generate 0.052 megawatts, significantly below the 0.5 megawatts threshold. For this reason alone it is considered that the proposal would not be a 'Schedule 2 development' within the meaning of the 2011 Regulations (as amended).

Accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred by regulation 5(5) of the 2011 Regulations (as amended), the Council hereby considers that the proposed development described in your request and the documents submitted with it, is not 'EIA development' within the meaning of the 2011 Regulations (as amended) and an Environmental Statement will not be required with any future application for the nature of development outlined above.

However, notwithstanding the above, given the nature of the proposal, it is likely that any future planning application will need to be submitted with a wide range of supporting environmental information. More specifically, based on consultation responses received as part of the issuing of this screening opinion, you are advised:

- The Environment Agency advise that you will need to submit a water framework directive assessment with any application for planning permission;
- Reading Borough Council Transport Development Control officers advise that the location of the intended turbines appear to be located beneath the footway, which is a public footpath. As such, any closures of the footpath required for any approved construction works would need careful consideration with regards to rights of ways. A strategy in this regard should be included in any future submission.

Please note that this letter is provided without prejudice to the formal decision of the Council on this or any other application which may subsequently be submitted.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Markwell

Jonathan Markwell
Principal Planning Officer