



# Good Practice in Hydropower Developments

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**SNH Sharing Good Practice –  
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# Overview

- Who we are
- Scottish hydropower – the original renewable energy
- Good practice definitions
- Good practice in development
- Case studies
  - Black Rock
  - Cleghorn
  - Esragan
- Conclusions

# Who is Scottish Renewables?

## The voice of the renewable energy industry in Scotland

- Member-led trade association
- Over 260 member organisations
- Includes developers, consultants, landowners, NGOs, government agencies...etc
- All sectors – wind, wave, tidal stream, hydro, biomass, micro-renewables...

## Creating viable and sustainable markets for renewable technologies



# Hydro projects in Scotland

Status	Capacity (MW)
Operating	1487.71
Consented	20.50
In Planning	12.52
Scoping	33.33

**...another 657MW potential to develop in small schemes**

# Good Practice definitions

- **Mitigation** of environmental and social problems
- Social and environmental **benefits**

# Good practice in development

- Siting
  - not excluding designated areas
  - viable alternatives
  - avoid “traffic lighting” of Scottish rivers
- Pre-application meetings
  - SEPA environmental information requirements guidance
- Community and interest group engagement e.g. sports groups

# Case Study 1 – BLACK ROCK

- npower renewables
- River Glass above Black Rock Gorge
- Consented December 2008
- Up to 3.5 MW
- Early interaction with SEPA, SNH and the community
- Designations
  - SSSI,
  - Salmon River,
  - habitat for a number of European Protected Species



*...and is featured in a Harry Potter film!*

*The Forum for Scotland's Renewable Energy Industry*



# Case Study 2 – CLEGHORN

- TLS hydro Ltd.
- Cleghorn Hydro, near Lanark
- 300 kW scheme
- SAC designated for Clyde Valley Woods
- Existing site redeveloped
  - Reuse of existing weir and turbine house
  - Turbine house refurbishment designed to limit noise pollution and minimise visual impact
  - Minimum impact and footprint
  - Site cleaned of oil and debris from previous use
  - Natural regeneration





# Case Study 3 – ESRAGAN

- Ardchatten Hydro Ltd.
- River Esragan
- 950 kW
- SSSI, SAC, European protected species
- Early interaction with SEPA & SNH
- Substantial mitigation
  - Geo-textile gravel sandwich road, limited to 6m wide
  - Bridge platform to access river due to ecology
  - Fish pass
  - Weir building time limited to 3 months
  - Ancient woodland, but existing 33 kVA line.



# Conclusions

- Early interaction with all key stakeholders is the first step to good practice
- Designations do not have to be a barrier to hydropower developments
- Good practice guidance will need to be robust to ensure fair decisions are made for future, potentially more contentious, schemes.

# Celebrating good practice



- **Best Environmental Initiative Award**
- **Best Renewable Project Award**
- **Outstanding Contribution to the Industry Award**
- **Best Community Initiative Award**
- **Among others... nomination details on:**

**[www.greenenergyawards.co.uk](http://www.greenenergyawards.co.uk)**

**Thank you**



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