

FERNAIG COMMUNITY TRUST

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME THE GLEN, ACHMORE



Brief for Consultants

Hydro Feasibility Study

Fernaig Community Trust

Fernaig Community Trust is a company limited by guarantee (number 188633) and a Scottish Charity (number 033722), owned by the community of Achmore and Stromeferry in Ross-shire.

The Trust has commissioned and received a report outlining the options for purchase and use of portions of the surrounding land currently owned by the Forestry Commission. One of these areas, The Glen at Achmore, which is identified for purchase has development potential for hydro generation, which could provide both assistance in purchasing the land and provide a future income for the Trust.

A feasibility study is now required to assess the hydro potential of the identified area - a map showing the area of interest forms part of this document.

Aim

In its broadest sense, the aim of the study is to evaluate the feasibility of developing a hydro scheme on the identified land, and suggest the practical and financial requirements. The Study will present the best engineering/economic hydro scheme together with a scheme having the least social and environmental impact on the community.

Objectives

1. Explore and analyse the potential, viability and costs for hydro electricity generation, specifically:

- The hydro energy generation potential within the identified site
- Design and planning issues covering the project
- Include the civil and electrical work required to complete the proposed schemes, including design and planning constraints on the water intakes, penstocks and turbine house.
- Any environmental or other restrictions or limiters to development
The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) requirements must be included and addressed in the Study.
- Suggested technical solutions and costs for development
- Potential annual income generation.

- Potential spin offs and opportunities.
- Potential sources of funding for developing the hydro scheme.
- The glen is a very quiet location, recommendations for the design and location of the turbine house must take account of the noise produced by the turbine/generator set, ensuring there is minimum disturbance to the surrounding area.
- The Study will provide sufficient information that can be included in a business plan, required as part of the land purchase proposal.
- Any other issues deemed relevant to the study, but not listed here.
- Provide guidance on next steps, and details of a brief for further studies if applicable.

2. Additionally

- Private water supplies are taken from the Allt Cadh an Eas and tributaries. Account must be taken of these when designing the schemes, improving them should the schemes allow.
- The consultant should work closely with the Trust, through face-to-face meetings, email and telephone, accepting advice on local issues, ensuring that board members feel part of the process, and that their skill levels in renewable energy matters are raised as a result of the feasibility study process.
- Attend a final open meeting to present the findings of the report to the community; this date is to be agreed with the Board. This must be done in an accessible way, to raise awareness and understanding of the potential (or problems) of the project and the presentation. This will form part of the community consultation prior to a ballot of the community, which is required as a condition of land purchase.

Company and personnel experience

The proposal should provide details of relevant company experience, the competency of those undertaking the study together with their curricula vitae.

Content

The proposal should include the following:-

1. The methodologies to be employed.

2. The cost of the study, showing fees and expenses and the time engaged by each person with VAT breakdown
3. The study timetable.

*This project is subject to award of grant funding. These timescales should be as accurate as possible to ensure any successful funding award is not jeopardised.

Your response to this brief should be submitted to the Chair of the Trust, Kate Bulloch, by 6th August.

Timetable

Brief to consultants	23 rd July
Submission of consultants' proposals	6 th August
Commissioning date	13 th August
Draft report completed by	17 th September
Submission of report	24 th September
Presentation of report at a public meeting	12 th October

Budget

The budget for the report is approximately £5,000 inclusive of expenses, but excluding VAT.

Reporting

The nominated contact person for the consultants is:-

Kate Bulloch
Dharmasala
Braeintra
By Stromeferry
Ross-shire
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Four copies of the report should be provided plus an electronic copy. The ownership and copyright of the report will reside with the Fernaig Trust.

Date of issue of brief: 22nd July 2010