

Low Cost Pre-feasibility Micro Hydro Initial Assessment



Landowners with a river flowing across their land may want to establish whether they have a practical and economic energy source. Feasibility studies can prove expensive and no one wants to waste money on a report that may indicate there is no economic return or there are other barriers preventing development at the proposed site. The assessment offers a 'first estimate' of potential power outputs to inform the decision whether to proceed to a full feasibility study.

The pre-feasibility assessment involves a two stage process:

1. Desktop study (We can offer this stage for any part of the UK)	<p>Using information supplied by the site owner in conjunction with Ordnance Survey maps and an established computer modelling programme to predict the power output of the site.</p> <p>The following information is required to carry out the desktop study part of a pre-feasibility assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The available head at the site (in metres) (landowners own estimate).• The completion of a short questionnaire. <p>You will receive a single page summary for the findings.</p> <p><i>Charge for Stage 1: £125 (payment to be received in advance).</i></p>
2. Site visit	<p>For those sites where development appears viable, we offer and recommend a site visit to check the preliminary assessment along with a range of other local factors which could affect project economics and practicality.</p> <p>What will you get for your money? A report detailing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The size and disposition of the rainfall catchment together with rainfall and evaporation data, the mean annual flow expected at the site, a prediction of how much energy could be harnessed and the value of that energy.• A list of contact details for hydro-engineering companies you may wish to consult to carry the development forward. If your scheme is not likely to be economic, a list of points to consider and references if you wish to adopt a DIY approach.• Suggested 'next steps' to establish if there are likely to be any regulatory barriers to development, contact details for local regulatory bodies and a list of questions to ask.• Details of possible grants, information about the Feed in Tariff. <p><i>Charge for Stages 1 and 2 combined: £625 plus travelling @ 45p/mile</i></p>

Hydropower development costs are incurred up front before any economic benefit is experienced so the 'payback' period is important. A cost effective scheme could be expected to pay back within 6 - 10 years but hydro schemes may be expected to continue to generate power for many years into the future.

For more information or a Hydro Initial Assessment questionnaire, please contact us on 01837 89200 or email info@devondare.org or visit our website www.devondare.org