



Environment
Agency



We are the Environment Agency. It's our job to look after your environment and make it a better place – for you, and for future generations. The Environment Agency. Out there, making your environment a better place.



Streamlining hydropower permitting

Improving participation & environment

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Environment Agency role

- ➔ Assist applicant through guidance and advice
- ➔ Assess applications
- ➔ Issue permissions
- ➔ Legislation giving powers and duties
- ➔ EU Water Framework Directive
- ➔ Cross cutting duties to protect and enhance biodiversity

Environmental Permissions

Permission	Statutory determination period (months)	Comments
Abstraction licence	3 (4 if advertised)	Abstractions <20m ³ /day do not require a permit
Impoundment licence		
Water discharge consent ^[1]	4	Rarely required for hydropower
Flood defence consent	2	
Flood risk assessment	-	As part of the planning application process
Fish pass approval	None (4 month internal service standard)	Issued separately for migratory salmonids and eels, otherwise covered in abstraction or impoundment licence

^[1] Becomes an environmental permit from April 2010, under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010.

➔ Location

- ➔ environmental sensitivity

➔ Volume/timing

- ➔ local impact

➔ Water Resources

- ➔ deprived reaches
- ➔ effect on navigation
- ➔ effect on other abstractors

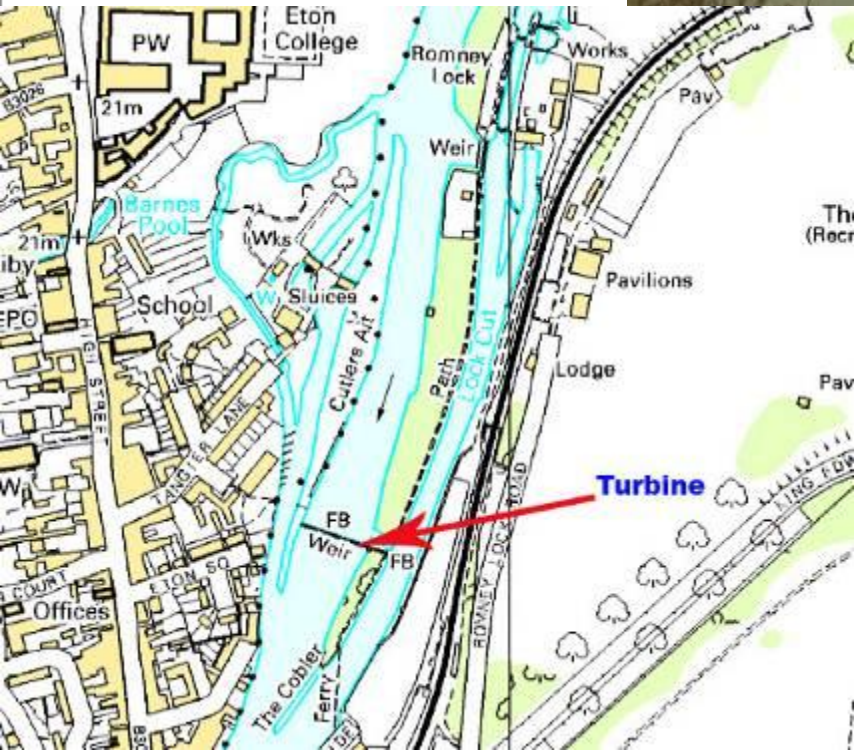
➔ Fisheries/eels

- ➔ Screening
- ➔ Fish pass / turbine!

➔ Flood Defence

- ➔ Increased flood risk





Issues

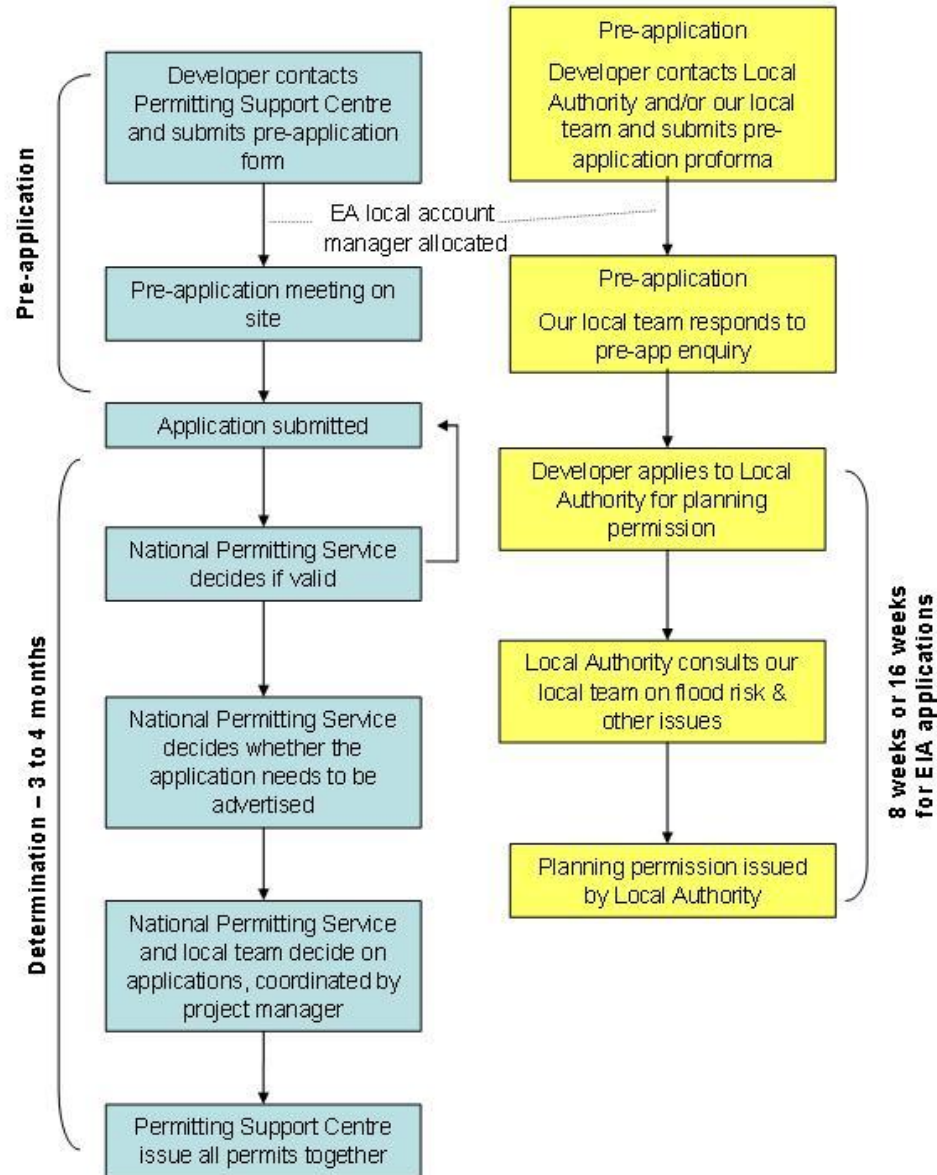
- ➔ Typically four permissions
- ➔ Differing timescales
- ➔ Duplicate information
- ➔ Co-ordination with planning permissions
- ➔ End to end time
- ➔ Enabling community groups
- ➔ Ensuring continued protection of environment

Aim

- ➔ Streamlined decision process, leading to:
 - ➔ Single timely decision letter
 - ➔ Engagement of stakeholders
 - ➔ Protection of the environment

Environmental permission

Planning permission



Tools

- ➔ List of issues for Environmental Impact Assessment
- ➔ Pre-application checklist
- ➔ Single EA hydropower application form
- ➔ Second edition of Good Practice Guide
- ➔ Case studies

Discussion

- ➔ Agreement on the aims of a single decision process
- ➔ How can we improve stakeholder participation

- ➔ <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/br/hydro/power>
- ➔ Closing date 2nd July 2010