

Dame Helen Ghosh DCB

Director-General

The National Trust

Heelis

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Dear Dame Helen Ghosh

I am writing on behalf of the campaign group Save the Conwy. The group formed on December 4th 2013 in response to the RWE proposals for a run of river hydro scheme on the Afon Conwy; it now has over 3000 supporters. I also write as a resident of the Snowdonia National Park, an area where the National Trust manages a large amount of land and carries out much important conservation work.

However I am extremely concerned by the National Trust's role in the planned RWE hydro power scheme on the Afon Conwy, which will have a profound effect on the Conwy Falls and the Fairy Glen SSSI.

The main concerns are:

-That a project such as this should ever be considered in such an important and sensitive area. The Fairy Glen is designated a SSSI housing protected species of both flora and fauna.

-That the project will have a detrimental effect on the recreational activities currently carried out on this stretch of river. Including, but not limited to; angling, kayaking and sight-seeing. This is of particular concern to an area whose local economy is so dependent on tourism

- That the project will offer nothing to the local economy. There will be no long term employment generated. Those who will profit from this scheme are a foreign power company, a single large land owner and yourselves, the National Trust.

The Afon Conwy hydro scheme has proved extremely controversial with over 900 objections at the previous round of planning and a petition of objection with over 6000 signatures. Objecting organizations include the Woodland Trust, Snowdonia Society, North Wales Wildlife Trust and Canoe Wales. The Snowdonia National Park Authority has already rejected the application once and NRW has not yet been able to decide on the environmental implications of the abstraction license despite working on it for over a year. Surely it is time the National Trust distances itself from this project and withdraws the right of RWE to use it's land.

Concern is also growing in Snowdonia among both residents and visitors at the growing number of small scale hydro schemes being built. Many of these schemes are in locations considered to be of

high landscape value and ecological importance. The schemes being considered in the Ogwen Valley by the National Trust are a perfect example of this.

The National Trusts core values are stated on your website:

“We’re a charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation’s heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. More than 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything we do. We look after special places throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland forever, for everyone.”

Please consider how renting out land to a foreign owned power company at the expense of recreational users, the local community and the ecology of a truly unique place fits with these values.

Save the Conwy is asking the National Trust for two things:

Please withdraw your support for RWE's Conwy Falls hydro scheme.

Please consult with residents and other users of the Snowdonia National Park before continuing with your hydro building policy.

Yours Faithfully

Dan Yates (National Trust life member 290642898)

Save the Conwy.

Cc. Justin Albert