

May 2010

Sector: Sustainable energy

The opportunity

This is an opportunity to invest in River Bain Hydro Ltd., which will be the first community-owned hydro scheme in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Operation

The project comprises the installation and operation of a 45kW hydro electric scheme in the village of Bainbridge, Wensleydale. The scheme should generate electricity for around 45 local households. Any extra income generated will be put towards the Raydale Project, which is a community project working with local landowners to protect the whole catchment area of the river Bain.

The project is subject to obtaining planning permission and an abstraction licence, both of which it is hoped will be granted by end May 2010. Construction will then commence in July and commissioning is expected November 2010.

River Bain Hydro Ltd is working in partnership with H2ope, a community interest company (CIC) providing specialist services to help develop and support community hydro schemes in the UK. It has successfully delivered two award-winning hydro schemes in the UK.

Constitution

River Bain Hydro Ltd. is an Industrial and Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community.

Investment need

Capital cost of the project	£450,000
Investment target	£250,000 by 9 th June 2010
Investment thresholds	Minimum £250, maximum £20,000
Yield	Expected IRR 3.9% over 10 years With EIS tax break 6.4% over 10 years
Term	Minimum 3 years from commencement of trading. Preferred term 10+ years
Confidence	Strong management team Good track record with two similar schemes completed
Risk	Planning permission and licences to be obtained Risk of raising insufficient funds within timeframe Some interest rate exposure
Social impact	80 tonnes of carbon emissions saved per year 185,000 kWh of electricity generated per year Surplus income put towards other local environmental projects

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