



Attention Mr Stuart Taylor  
Planning Department  
South Shropshire District Council  
Stone House  
Corve Street  
Ludlow  
Shropshire  
SY8 1DG

19<sup>TH</sup> February 2008

Dear Mr Taylor

### **BISHOP'S CASTLE BIOMASS POWER PROJECT**

I have been made aware of the Bishop's Castle Biomass Power Project and would like to record the following observations in my role as Catchment Sensitive Farming Adviser in the River Teme Catchment

Catchment Sensitive farming is a Defra initiative, facilitating farmers and other land managers to reduce their negative impact on water quality in a number of river catchments including the Teme. As such my interest in the Bishop's Castle Biomass Project is limited but I write to highlight areas where I believe the two projects can demonstrate synergy.

The river corridor in the Teme is a significant linear woodland with alder as a prominent species. Unfortunately the alder population is generally over mature and in many areas infected with phytophthora. Trees are consequentially dying, frequently collapsing into the water course, damaging riparian habitat and contributing silt to the river system. These problems are exacerbated by a lack of economic drivers for tree management. An additional outlet for bankside timber at Bishop's Castle could drive a rotational coppicing policy and enhance river corridor habitat.

Additionally the project is likely to provide an end use for miscanthus and short-rotation coppice willow. Sensitive located and managed, both these crops can be environmentally beneficial in terms of water quality.

In these two areas the project will make a positive contribution to the ambitions of Catchment Sensitive Farming

Yours sincerely

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