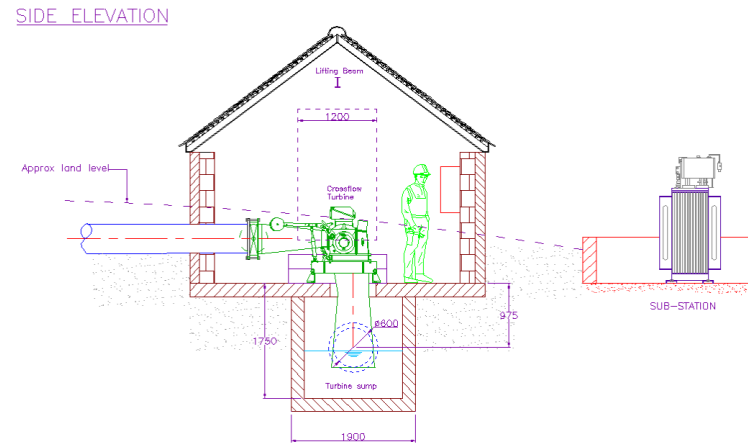




An Intake and powerhouse similar to the design proposals

The proposed powerhouse and turbine schematic



Key Facts

Head;	32m
Flow;	200L/sec
Pipe;	450mm Dia 650m long
Turbine	Crossflow

Key Figures

Project size:	45 kW Hydro Power
Tech type	
Energy Generation	225,000 kWh per year (60 homes)
Private finance leveraged	£300,000 required
CO2 savings	X tonnes
RCEF grant	Stage 1: £20,000 Stage 2: £96,000

Further Notes

LEP area: Cumbria

Link for further info: [Community Energy | The Melbreak Communities \(wordpress.com\)](http://Community Energy | The Melbreak Communities (wordpress.com))

The Story

The Melbreak Communities was formed to bring together the 4 parishes in the valley: Lorton, Loweswater, Blind Bothel and Buttermere. Following a survey of residents, one of the community objectives was to explore the options for renewable energy in the valley. A working party was set up to investigate, and came up with three possible sites for hydro generation schemes. Following a successful grant application from RCEF, a feasibility study was completed which indicated Mill Beck at Buttermere showed the best promise. A dedicated organisation, Melbreak Rural Energy CIC was then formed to manage the project and raise funds.

Challenges & Risks

Following numerous consultations, local support for the project has been 100% positive. With the loss of the Feed in Tariff, the finances originally looked to be marginal, but due to recent price increases, finance now looks positive. There are still several challenges facing the scheme, mainly issues of land ownership and the difficulties of obtaining permissions to undertake the work on common land in the Lake District National Park.

Lessons Learned

We expected lots of red tape and hurdles to overcome but we've encountered 10 times more. Residents are surprised that it is not possible to sell our electricity to more than one customer. They would like to see a direct benefit as consumers.