

South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT) works in collaboration with the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE) to identify, scope and deliver work that benefits the special nature of the River Kent. The River Kent and its tributaries are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

# BOWSTON WEIR REMOVAL: POST REMOVAL WORKS ONGOING



## A BOWSTON UPDATE

ISSUE DATE: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

*The next phase of the Bowston weir removal works is currently underway, with the regrading of the riverbed above the weir to meet the rock rapid below. This will involve some reprofiling including reduction and reshaping of the gravels on the east bank and increasing protection of the west bank; this forms part of the designed proto channel excavation.*

*The rock rapid downstream is yet to be completed. Some of the excess sediments above the weir will now be used to infill the boulders that form the base of rock rapid. Following all these works it will take some time and a number of higher flows for the river to reach an equilibrium.*

*Concerns have been expressed locally about an orange liquid in the right bank area upstream of the weir. The sediment that has built up over many years to form this upstream area, contain iron particles. They have been held in anoxic conditions, i.e. without oxygen, and after the reduction in river levels, oxygen can now enter these sediments. As such, they have started to oxidise, i.e. rust. This is a natural process and it causes no harm to the environment.*

*An ecological team continue to be on site at key points during the removal works, to carry out all necessary checks and conduct species rescues as required.*

*Regarding the sediment incident on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the Environment Agency investigation has now concluded. The incident has been classified as a Category 3 incident, with no evidence of fish or crayfish mortalities. A warning letter has been issued to both Ebsford Environmental and South Cumbria Rivers Trust, which concludes enforcement action relating to this incident. We remain deeply regretful this incident occurred and are relieved no ecological damage was caused to the River Kent SSSI/SAC. Measures have been put in place to ensure an incident like this is never repeated.*

*We will inform you when we know a project completion date. In the meantime, we have produced a Bowston weir removal leaflet with information about the removal process. This has been printed and distributed to Bowston residents. You can also find a copy on our website here: <https://scrt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston/>*

Regards,

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*The SCRT Team*

## **CONTACT US**

*Please contact us at [admin@scrt.co.uk](mailto:admin@scrt.co.uk) if you have any questions or queries, where we will attempt to answer them within three-working days. Information and updates can be found on our website: <https://scrt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>*