

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: FIRST NOTCH REMOVED



A BOWSTON UPDATE

ISSUE DATE: Thursday 30th June 2022

The next phase of the Bowston weir removal i.e. the initial weir notching, was scheduled to start earlier this week on Monday 27th June. However, after overnight rainfall, river levels increased and works were postponed.

This morning, we were able to re-start this work and the first notch of Bowston weir has now been removed. A three-metre notch has been taken out from the left-hand bank. This will allow upstream levels to drop and allow the next phases to be conducted in drier conditions. An ecological team will be on site at key points during this phased approach, to carry out all necessary checks and conduct species rescues as required.

In response to concerns expressed locally and in an effort to provide reassurance, the use of large-tracked vehicles are authorised for in-river use during all phases of the weir removal. The base layer of the rock rapid downstream of the weir remains in construction and bed disturbance and silt liberation although minimised where possible are unavoidable. These machines are essential for this type of work and we apologise for any noise disturbance or any inconvenience caused during the permitted working hours period.

Following completion of the base layer of the rock ramp there will be significantly less bed disturbance. The formation of the completed ramp will essentially involve placing boulders upon its pre-prepared base.

Silt control measures are in place which include the siting of silt curtains downstream of the weir, the deployment of two telemetered sondes that report turbidity levels at 15-minute intervals and additional optical turbidity measurements that are taken also every fifteen minutes by our contractors. If turbidity levels reach a pre-set trigger limit, works are stopped immediately and don't restart until levels have fallen.

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We are yet to hear from the Environment Agency about their investigation into the silt release on Monday 20th June. When the findings of the investigation are released, we will share this information with you.

The SCRT Team

CONTACT US

Please contact us at 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>