



South
Cumbria
Rivers
Trust

LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN BOWSTON WEIR REMOVAL PROPOSAL

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South Cumbria Rivers Trust Ltd

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VISION

South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT) work 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).

SCRT wish to engage the public to ensure transparency through the development of our project proposal; the removal of Bowston Weir on the River Kent. Through this Public Engagement Plan however, we want to achieve a more responsive, collaborative and targeted approach to public engagement.

We want the public to engage with SCRT. This could be participating in information gathering to expressing views, experiences or objections. We want the public to find it easy to interact with SCRT and have a positive and consistent experience when they do. Our intention is that public contributions to our proposals, in the development of our objectives, are welcomed to help form agreed outcomes wherever possible.

We also must make best use of our resources. As a small charity we need to deliver projects that are of value and satisfy the aims of the Trust; to improve the aquatic environments of South Cumbria.

The word 'public' will be used throughout this plan to describe lots of people. We understand this encompasses several needs and opinions. These may change during the proposal and therefore the tools used for engagement must also develop. This means SCRT must be flexible and understanding in our

approach. This may mean changes to our plan, using new channels for engagement and evaluating the effectiveness of channels used.

AIMS

Background

The Cumbria River Restoration Strategy

This is a rolling three-way river restoration programme delivering innovative river restoration remedies across three SSSI/SAC catchments in Cumbria, in partnership with West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Eden Rivers Trust, South Cumbria Rivers Trust and Natural England. Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FD GIA) is now supporting the programme within its 6-year Medium Term Plan.

The three Cumbrian river trusts have supported the production of a restoration plan for their respective catchments by identifying and developing targeted projects aimed at restoring natural or near-natural hydromorphological regimes over at least six years. The development of these interventions has been supported by both Natural England and Environment Agency officers, under the guidance of the River Restoration project board with clear reference to the River Restoration Strategy for Cumbria. The principal objective driving this strategy is the delivery of status improvement in these SAC rivers, which is a responsibility shared by both NE and EA. Although protected areas are the main focus for the work, it is essential that the projects deliver other benefits for both people and wildlife where feasible. Flood risk benefits in particular are another desirable component of the projects being delivered under the Cumbria River Restoration Programme.

Framework

IPENS (Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites), supported by European LIFE+ funding, produced a theme plan for river restoration in 2015, outlining the importance of physical restoration of rivers to achieve objectives set by the European Commission Habitats Directive. It also presents a summary of the approach agreed by Natural England and the Environment Agency to implement river restoration plans on Natura 2000 sites and **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**.

This framework outlines ways to achieve target conservation status of Natura 2000 sites in England. This can be found here:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5478339747774464>.

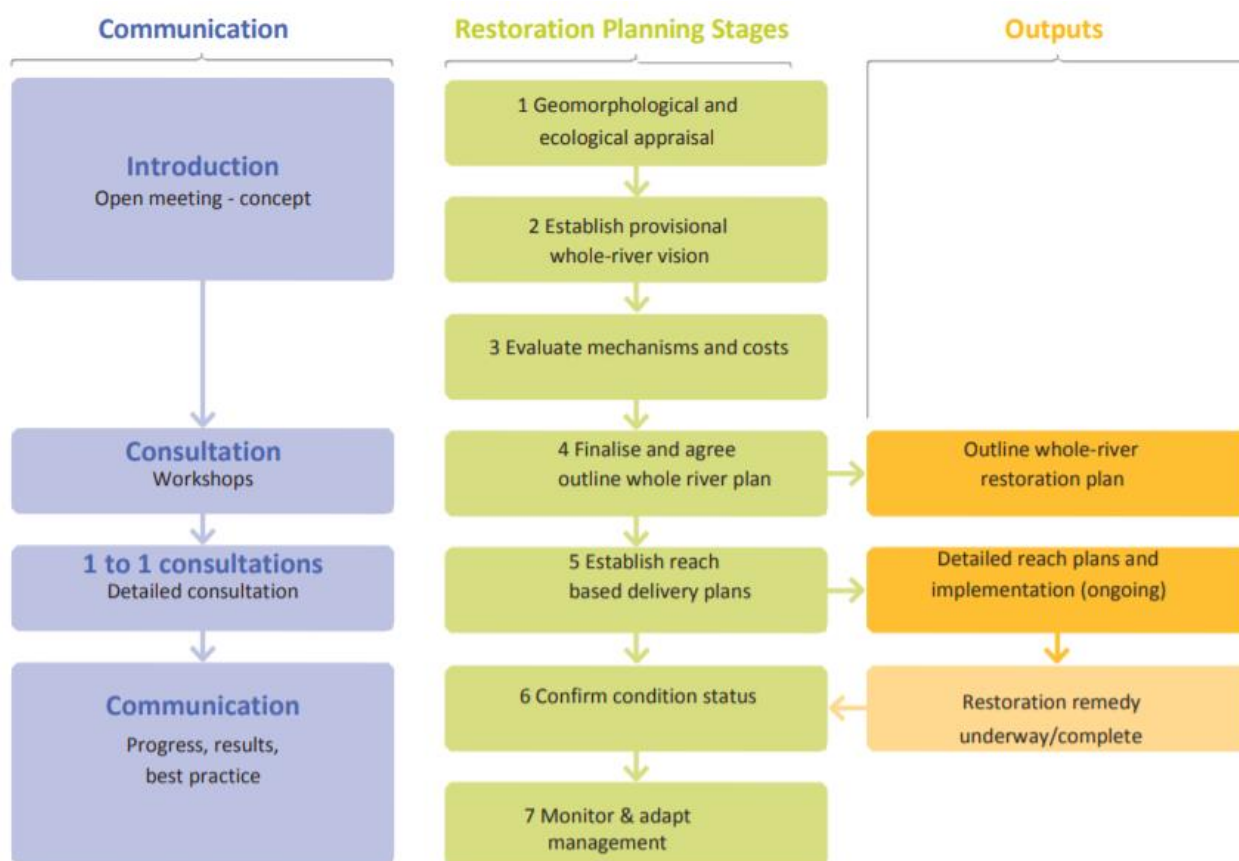


Figure 1: Local Decision-Making planning: *River Restoration Theme Plan*
Natural England

The above document is a framework to guide local decision-making in the planning of river restoration projects and public engagement planning. It also provides information about key issues and implementation actions.

Our aim is that we will use this approach to guide our public engagement.

However, it will be adapted throughout the development of this proposal to cater to the schedule of the project and to meet the expectations of our stakeholders.

Our priority

To implement the Public Engagement Plan we will focus on;

❖ Encouraging improvement-

We encourage collaborative working with individuals and organisations who can contribute to the proposals to achieve better outcomes.

How will we achieve our aims?

Public communication-

SCRT may use a selection of the following public engagement tools to effectively communicate and engage with the public.

- SCRT website* (<https://scrt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>)
- E-leaflet *
- Information poster
- Letter-drop
- One to one meetings
- Focus group meetings *
- Public meetings
- Newspaper items
- Social Media platforms*
- E-mail correspondence (admin@scrt.co.uk) *

*These are the tools that SCRT have adopted or propose to adopt for the Bowston weir removal proposal. These are subject to change.

WHAT we will communicate

We have provided a list of key documents and information we will share with the public to provide the relevant background material that has shaped this proposal and future actions in response to public engagement:

- **Jacobs fluvial audit 2010**

- The Jacobs fluvial Audit 2010 is available by appointment at the Natural England offices in Kendal, Cumbria. Anyone wishing to make an appointment, please contact;

Dr Paul Glading

Senior Adviser - Water Sector

E-mail: paul.glading@naturalengland.org.uk

Number: 0300 060 3900

- **River Kent and Tributaries SSSI and River Kent SAC - Weirs: Audit and Options Baseline Report, Atkins**

- Available on the SCRT website;

<https://s crt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>

- **River restoration Theme Plan 2015**

- Available below;

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5478339747774464>

- **Options Appraisal and Design Report**

- Available on the SCRT website;

<https://s crt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>

- **Proposal Outline**

- Available on the SCRT website;

<https://s crt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>

- **Local Community Engagement Plan**

- Available on the SCRT website;
<https://s crt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>
- **Flood Risk Assessment**
 - Available on the SCRT website;
<https://s crt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>
- **Updates to information**
 - Available on the SCRT website;
<https://s crt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>
- **Progression from proposal to formal applications**
 - Available on the SCRT website;
<https://s crt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>

TIMELINE

We have created a timeline of work that incorporates the key stages of the Bowston Weir proposal and engagement plans for your reference. These will be subject to change as the proposal develops and timelines alter. This will be kept up to date as and when developments occur. This timeline can be found in the appendices; Appendix 1 of this document.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT WE SET OUT TO?

Once we have carried out the aims of this engagement plan, we expect achieve the following:

Short-term achievements (Prior to formal public consultation)

- People/key stakeholders know who we are, how to contact us and know how to access our latest update(s) about the proposal

- The SCRT website has a dedicated section with links to key documents
- Key stakeholders identify to SCRT their likely representatives
- Timeline for proposal published

Medium-term achievements (During formal consultation phase/s)

- Interested parties/key stakeholders will have accessed key documents to inform working group meetings
- Meetings arranged and dates published
- Meetings/working groups with key stakeholders managed with a consistent approach by SCRT
- Agreed summary produced at the end of each meeting and stakeholders are satisfied with the approach
- SCRT produces summary of all meetings with initial conclusions around key points, agreed actions, areas of concern. Evaluations of such will be made available to the public

Long-term achievements (Finalising consultation and delivery planning)

- Final meeting with representative/s from each stakeholder group to finalise report and to agreed formal actions
- Report to be made available to wider public
- We can target and make the best use of our resources for future improvement

Possible Stakeholders/Interest Groups

We have created a list with potential stakeholders/interest groups who may be interested in the proposal and/or may be interested in attending focus groups regarding the proposal. If you are a member of a group which is not listed and

wish to be involved, please contact us to lodge your interest using the address at the bottom of page 10.

Potential Stakeholders/Interest Groups

Groups

LOCAL Residents

Angling Associations

Parish Councils

District Council

Landowner/s

Interest Groups

Contact Name

Cannot be displayed due to GDPR

Kent Angling Association

Burneside Angling Association

Staveley & District Angling Association

Burneside Parish Council (BPC)

Staveley & Ings Parish Council

South Lakeland District Council

James Cropper PLC

South Lakes Flood Action Partnership

Lakeland Canoe Club

Cumbria Canoeists

Burneside Residents Association

Burneside Flood Action Group

Staveley Flood Action Group

The Kent Catchment Partnership

Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Biodiversity and Sustainability Group -BPC

Environment Agency

Natural England

Government Bodies

CONTACT US

We would appreciate any correspondence via either e-mail or by post.

E-mail: admin@scrt.co.uk

Post: South Cumbria Rivers Trust, The Refinery, The Clock Tower Business Centre, Low Wood, Ulverston, LA12 8LY

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Bowston Weir Removal Proposal Timeline

BOWSTON WEIR REMOVAL PROPOSAL TIMELINE		
Last Updated: 04/05/2022		
Phase	Progress	Timeline
Planning	COMPLETE	
Feasibility studies and assessments	Complete	March 2017-February 2018
Options Appraisal and Design Report	Complete	October 2017- February 2019
Project Proposal	Complete	March 2019-April 2019
Landowner/structure owner agreement	Complete	October 2020
Permissions/Public Consultation	Complete	
Impoundment Licence	Complete	March 2021
Planning Application	Complete	February 2022
Delivery	Ongoing	
Contractor tender process	Complete	April 2022
Delivery	Pending	May 2022 – September 2022
Monitoring	Ongoing	April 2019- 2025



Appendix 2

Bowston Weir Removal Engagement Timeline

BOWSTON WEIR REMOVAL ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE		
Last Updated: 04/05/2022		
Phase	Progress	Prospective Timeline
Planning	Complete	
Question and Answer Document-Proposal	Complete	March 2019-April 2019
Responses to queries following publication	Complete	April 2019- June 2019
Local Community Engagement Plan	Complete	June 2019-July 2019
Second Update following public queries	Complete	July 2019
Workshops/Task Groups	Complete	September 2019-March 2021
Obtaining structure owner approval notification	Complete	October 2020
Public Consultation	Complete	
Notification of progression to planning permission	Complete	November 2020
Notification of progression to impoundment licence	Complete	November 2020
Results from planning permission	Complete	February 2022
Delivery	Ongoing	
Final task groups – delivery planning	Ongoing	February 2022– June 2022
Updates regarding delivery work	Pending	May 2022 – September 2022
Monitoring	Ongoing	
Updates providing monitoring information	Pending	Annually up to 2025



South Cumbria Rivers Trust is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee.
 Company Registration No: 5763380. It is also a registered Charity: No 1114682
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