

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 PROPOSAL UPDATE: March 2021



ISSUE DATE: Tuesday 09th March 2021

BOWSTON- A BRIEF UPDATE

South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT) applied for planning permission from South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) on the 20th of November 2020 for the removal of Bowston weir.

The application received a number of objections from the local community and Burneside Parish Council that centred on an area of habitat above the weir crest that residents expressed was valuable to them in terms of biodiversity and aesthetics.

In an attempt to demonstrate consideration of these community concerns, SCRT have undertaken an extensive review of the weir removal design to explore possible options that could retain these habitats and secure the support of the local community. Two extensions to the planning application were subsequently requested to allow for additional remodelling and a summary of these investigations to be finalised.

The conclusion of this review has successfully produced an adaptation of the design that both retains the wetland habitat area cherished by local people and meets the objectives of the Cumbria River Restoration Strategy and the re-naturalisation aims for the River Kent & Tributaries SSSI/SAC to which this weir removal contributes. It has been agreed with SLDC that this adaptation will be accepted as an amendment to the existing planning application and it is now available on the SLDC portal for the public to review. The planning reference number is SL/2020/0817.

We want the local community, interest groups and stakeholders to know that we have listened to your concerns and have worked very hard to accommodate them.

We thank you for your continued patience and we very much hope this adaptation is viewed positively by the local community and all interested parties.

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We will continue to update all interested parties with new developments and relevant information as soon as possible, via e-mail and on our website.

Regards,

The SCRT Team

CONTACT US

Please contact us at admin@scrt.co.uk if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them as soon as possible.

All information and updates to date can be found on our website: <https://scrt.co.uk/what-we-do/current-projects/bowston>