

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: Friday 12th March 2021

## BOWSTON- A FURTHER UPDATE

*In our update earlier this week (9<sup>th</sup> March) we advised you that we had submitted a formal amendment to the current planning application with South Lakeland District Council and to advise you that the “Technical Note/Summary” that formed the amendment was available to view on their website.*

*As the title suggests, the Technical Note, was produced principally for planning purposes. We are now pleased to inform you that we now have the commissioned visualisations to assist you in its interpretation. Please go to the link below;*

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

*While viewing the visualisations of the adapted design we would be grateful if you would bear in mind the following key points;*

- *The habitats that have formed on the right bank upstream of the current weir crest are there because of the impounding effects of the weir; they would not exist without its influence.*
- *Our original weir removal design specifically intended to remove this habitat and re-model the bank in that area. This has remained a justifiable option in the re-naturalisation aims for the River Kent SSSI/SAC.*
- *This new adapted design, initiated in consideration of local feeling toward the loss of this area, now demonstrates that it can be retained albeit which some change.*
- *New flood risk benefit particularly to those properties adjacent to and downstream of the weir.*

*To merge the needs of the community with the re-naturalisation aims for the River Kent has required compromise and retention of this habitat in the adapted design cannot also allow the same connection to the river as it does currently. We looked very closely at an option to connect into it via a channel from the river upstream but this wasn't possible without unacceptable engineered interventions. However, it will still connect on higher flows and become an ephemerally wetted habitat.*

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*On a wider note, the adapted design demonstrates that following removal of the weir the river will recover from its current constraints and form a natural pool and gravel riffle sequence of habitats and flow diversity.*

*We hope that these visualisations in combination with the Technical Note and this update will provide you with a clear understanding of the adapted design.*

*We understand that SLDC will make their determination based upon this new approach by early April.*

*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](mailto: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>*