



**South
Cumbria
Rivers
Trust**

Bowston weir
interest group
meeting

AGENDA

- **Welcome.** Introductions from Peter Evoy, Director at SCRT
1pm – 1:10pm
- **Background information**
1:10pm – 1:20pm
- **Where are we now?** Details of progression
1:25pm-1:30pm
- **Q & A session**
1:30pm- 2:45pm
- **Closing remarks and future steps.**
2:45pm- 3pm



Meeting etiquette

This meeting is an opportunity for members of various interest groups to ask questions or make comments about the proposal. Please be considerate when others are speaking.

The first time you speak, please introduce yourselves and which organisation you represent.

1. Text/call XXX if you have any technical problems during the meeting on XXX.
2. Cameras on, if internet allows and if you feel comfortable.
3. Confidentiality: meeting not recorded, but we are taking notes and information will be anonymised.
4. 'Raise hand' to contribute, share the air, disagree with respect
5. Please 'Mute' yourself when not talking



Further
information can be
found here:

<https://scrt.co.uk/>

Background information

Who we are?

South Cumbria Rivers Trust a small local charity dedicated to conserve, protect and rehabilitate the aquatic environments of South Cumbria.

SCRT Aims/Objectives –

- To monitor, conserve and protect and when necessary rehabilitate and improve biodiversity of the lakes, rivers and streams of South Cumbria including adjacent waters for the public benefit.
- To advance the education of the public, companies and public bodies in:
 1. The understanding of the lakes and rivers including their fauna, flora, socio-economic and amenity value and the management of the water.
 2. The need for, and benefit of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of the aquatic environment.

Further information can be found here:

<https://scrt.co.uk/what-we-do/habitat-improvement/river-restoration/>

Cumbria River Restoration Strategy

What is it?

The Cumbria River Restoration Strategy was developed to help deliver the joint **Environment Agency and Natural England** obligation to improve the quality and function of the Eden, Derwent and Kent catchments.

For us, the project aims to bring river units of the River Kent & Tributaries Site of Special Scientific Interest/Special Area of Conservation into improving condition.

SCRT are **partners** in the River Restoration strategy, working to scope and deliver work that benefits the special nature of the River Kent, SSSI and SAC. The work is being conducted by concentrating on areas where human modifications to the Kent and its tributaries prevent the river functioning as a natural watercourse.

Further information can be found here:

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

Executive summary from the Atkins River Kent and Tributaries SSSI and River Kent SAC Weirs: Audit and Options Baseline Report

“Physical modifications, including weirs have been identified in the River Restoration Plan for the River Kent SAC (Jacobs 2010) as key pressures contributing to Unfavourable Condition.”

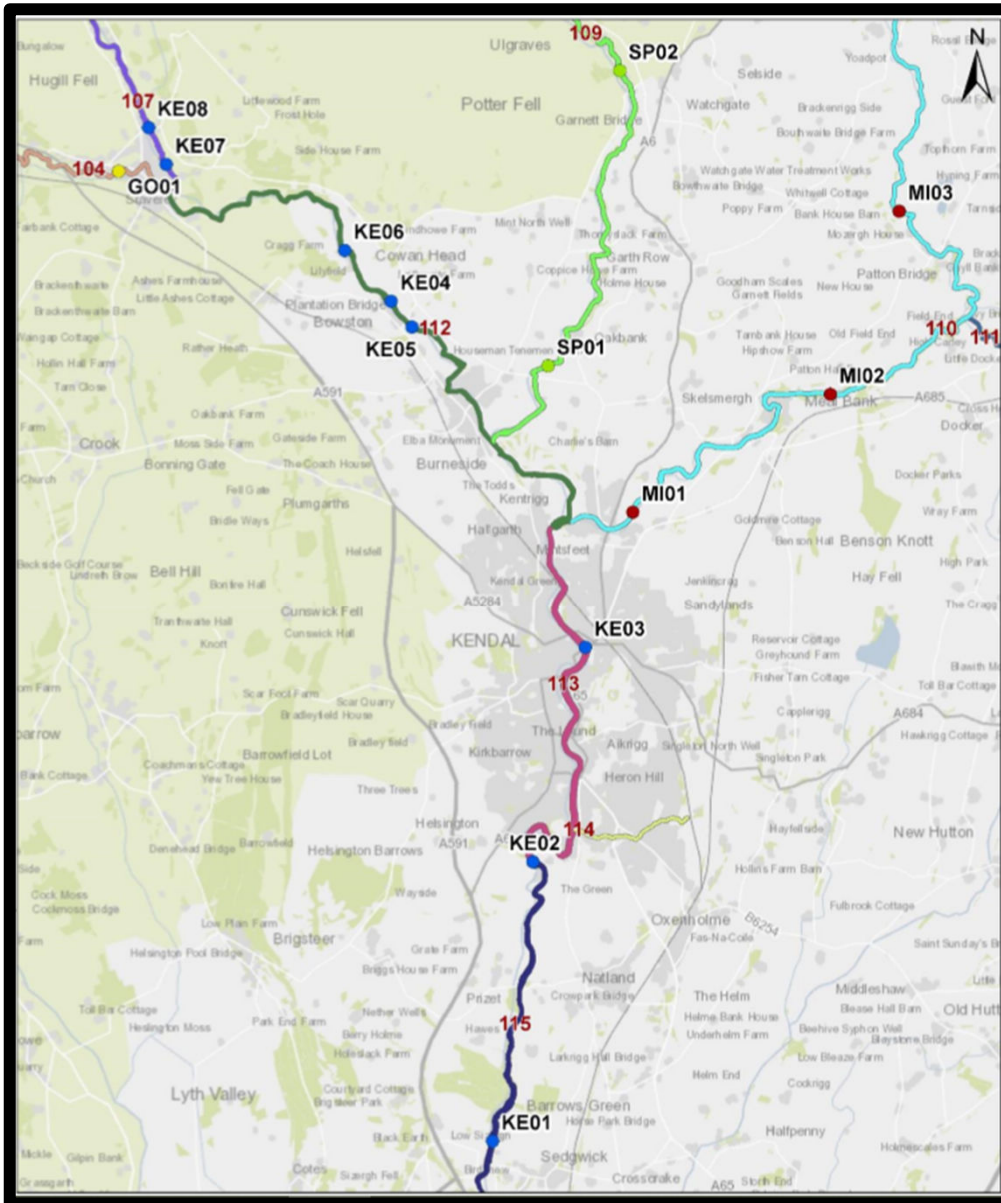
This study considers **14 weirs**, identified by Natural England as disrupting the natural flow and sediment regime, and in turn the natural ecological habitat of the River Kent catchment. The main objectives of the study include:

- Baseline audit of 14 impoundment structures situated within the Kent catchment;
- Appraise the options for restoring the river ecosystems in both form and function; and
- Make recommendations and provide outline costs for future work.

This project comprised a high level geomorphology, ecology and engineering assessment to screen the 14 weirs and prioritise actions in the catchment.

A Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) using agreed indicators and weightings helped prioritise the weirs for removal (or partial removal).


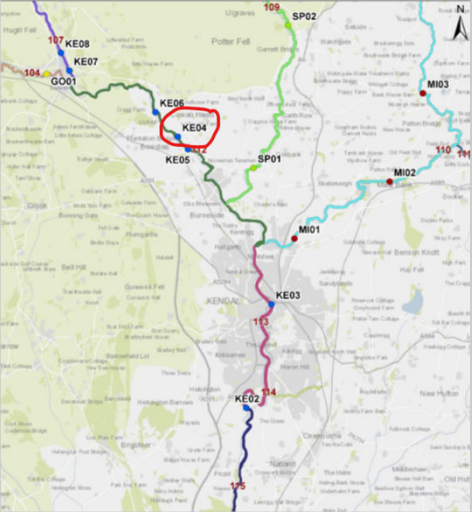
The 14 weirs assessed on the River Kent.



River	Weir ID and Name
River Kent	KE01 Weir at Sedgwick and EA gauging station
	KE02 Helsington Weir, Water Crook,
	KE03 Stramongate Weir, Kendal
	KE04 Weir at Bowston and EA gauging station.
	KE05 Bowston EA gauging station.
	KE06 Weir at Cowan Head
	KE07 Weir at Staveley
	KE08 Weir at Barley bridge
River Mint	M101 Weir upstream of Mint Bridge and EA gauging station
	M102 Weir upstream of Meal Bank
	M103 Weir at Patton Mill
River Sprint	SP01 Weir at Sprint Mill and EA gauging station
	SP02 Weir upstream of Garnet Bridge
River Gowan	GO01 Weir at Staveley

For further information about weir investigations to date visit;

<https://scrt.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Why-Bowston-weir-residents-meeting-2020.pdf>

Rank	Weir	What SCRT have done
#6	<p>BOWSTON:</p> <p>The weir at <u>Bowston KE04</u>, if fully removed, would allow approximately 2km of improved connectivity and ease fish passage for all species. There would be a direct improvement of 105m of impounded habitat.</p> <p>SCRT action to date:</p> <p>Further investigations completed.</p> <p>Public engagement ongoing.</p> <p>Formal agreement confirmed.</p> <p>Planning application not yet complete.</p>	 

Further information can be found here:

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

Progression in 2020

- 1. Residents meeting in February 2020.**
 - *Meeting notes can be found on our website, along with the SCRT presentation 'Why Bowston Weir?'*
- 2. Interest group meeting, due to be arranged March/April, postponed due to COVID impacts/restrictions.**
- 3. March/April Bowston weir removal deconstruction plans postponed until summer 2021. (Structure owner permissions not in place.)**
- 4. April to September COVID impacts proposal development.**
 - *Residents meeting notes not completed until November 2020.*
 - *Local Community Engagement plan (LCEP) on hold.*
- 5. October SCRT received confirmation of landowner permission for the removal of the weir.**
 - *Update sent to stakeholders and uploaded onto SCRT website.*
 - *LCEP reinstated and updated.*
- 6. Interest group meeting arranged November 2020.**
- 7. SCRT have lodged the planning application with SLDC, November 2020. The reference number is Ref: SL/2020/0817.**
- 8. The impoundment licence has been lodged with the EA, November 2020 but has yet to be confirmed.**

Bowston weir removal visualisation (Extract from the cbec report: Design options and appraisal)



before

Bowston Weir removal - View from footpath



after

The materials, finishes and levels indicated are used solely for the purpose of creating the visualisation and are not representative of the final development.

Figure 8.1 Indicative visualisation of final weir removal