

Upper Aire Habitat and Land Management Improvement Project

Newfield Bridge weir, Aire

Newfield Bridge weir was built ~130y ago to provide a water offtake. The Project was catalysed via Bowland Game Fishing Association and the Estate's Land Agent.



Timeline

- Jun 2015** Informal meeting between Environment Agency (EA) Fisheries Officer and Wild Trout Trust (WTT) to:
- Assess feasibility of fish passage past the 1.3m high and 9m wide weir
 - Consider options for improvement to open up ~11km of river
- Feb 2020** Three consecutive high rainfall events caused substantive damage to the downstream end of the weir. Deterioration of the wing walls and unfettered access by cattle was also causing bank erosion in the immediate vicinity
- Mar 2021** WTT Advisory Visit requested by Bowland Game Fishing Association to assess the weir and river habitat for ~1km up & downstream
- Spring 2021**
- Project Proposal for full weir removal drawn up by WTT incl services checks & due diligence
 - EA Geomorphology specialists produced a supporting document
 - Land Drainage Consent submitted to North Yorks County Council
- Summer 2021**
- Further assessment by NYCC Highways & Bridges Team
- Designation of pre & post monitoring sites for fixed-point photography (FPP)
- Sept 2021**
- Electric fishing to move fish away from works area
 - Installation of Sedimats to mitigate for fine sediment release
 - Full removal of weir via 8-tonne plant
 - Relocation of stone arisings to partially fill weir pool
 - Bolstering of scour erosion defences on Newfield Bridge

Total project cost: £7380



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**Winter
2021**

Ongoing monitoring of channel morphology development via FPP

Flood spec fencing and water-gates to protect ~180m double bank riparian buffer strip and allow for some augmented tree planting and natural regeneration



Series of images from fixed-point photography demonstrating channel evolution upstream of the weir:

Pre, post and 1-month later



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