

Dove Cliff Weir Removal - October and November 2021 update

"Weir" finished!

We are pleased to update that on 15 October 2021 our contractor, Stonbury, completed the construction phase of the weir removal project.

As we have now completed construction, all future newsletters will be on an ad-hoc basis when there are updates that are deemed to be of public interest and value.

Dove Cliff weir works

A considerable amount of effort has been undertaken to ensure that the field previously containing the temporary bypass channel has been returned to its original state. As part of that reinstatement the field on the north (Derbyshire) bank has been sown with a native wildflower meadow mix. This was undertaken by volunteers from the Transforming the Trent Valley wildlife team and, due to the unseasonably warm autumn weather, it is starting to grow quite nicely.

Stonbury have also restored the fields on the Staffordshire side where the main compound and the access roads were located. These have been grass seeded with a native grass mix where fields are not used for growing crops.

The photograph below is taken looking upstream from the new entrance to the mill fleam.



Below is an aerial photograph looking down at the new river alignment where the weir used to be, adjacent to the aerial view design illustration.



Above Left: August 2021 aerial photograph of completed permanent works. Above Right: Artist impression of completed project.

Landscaping

There will be some specific landscaping whereby we will replant native trees and shrubs in place of those that were removed to enable the weir removal works to be undertaken. This will happen over the next few weeks, depending on when there is suitable cold and dry weather conditions, to align with their planting season.

Archaeology

The analysis of the archaeology which was discovered on site is still ongoing with the final report expected in summer 2022. We will make this publically available when it is completed.

Monitoring

We have now entered into the important post construction monitoring phase of the project, with elements of that continuing for a number of years. It includes flow and water level monitoring in the river, both upstream and downstream of the main site location, as well as further flow monitoring in the mill fleam. The groundwater levels will also continue to be monitored, particularly how they link with Podmores Pools upstream of the site location, and the progress of the gravel bars and banks of the main channel.

Opening ceremony

On 15 October we held a media event to celebrate the completion of the project. At the event, we were able to demonstrate the work we have completed to open up the River Dove for the first time in nearly a millennium, creating a better place for people and wildlife.

ITV Central interviewed both our Technical Fisheries Specialist and Senior Project Manager at the event, with coverage on BBC East Midlands, BBC Online:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-58915696>, Staffordshire Live:

<https://www.staffordshire-live.co.uk/news/local-news/huge-project-remove-entire-weir-6066043>, Burton Mail, Greatest Hits Derbyshire Radio and Swadlincote Post and national

trade media.

Read more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/removal-of-dovecliff-weir-restores-river-health>

View a video about the project:

<https://twitter.com/EnvAgencyMids/status/1455862471613468673>



Photograph above - Talking about why fish migration and clean river gravels are so important with ITV.

Open house event in 2022

We are hoping to have a public open house event next to the river in May 2022 as part of World Fish Migration Day. If you are interested in hearing more about this event and would like to be kept informed of the details as they develop, please let us know using the details in the 'Contact us' section below.

Contact us

If you have any queries about this project, or would like to be added to the mailing list to receive these updates, please contact our Engagement Team via email at Engagement_Westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk or by telephone on 0203 025 1583.

We also have an online information page about this project. The link to this page is <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/removal-of-dove-cliff-weir>

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

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