



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR
FISH PASS IMPROVMENTS AT POTTERY TERRACE WEIR**

As part of the application for consent to undertake river restoration works on The River Douglas at Pottery Terrace Weir, Wigan, the following EIA has been undertaken.

SELECTING LEVEL OF EIA

1.1 Using guidance from the Lead Local Flood Authority and the Environment Agency the following process has been undertaken to select the level of EIA:

Level of EIA required and consenting regime:	Date table completed:
Level of EIA Required:	4 (Low Risk)
Do the proposals benefit from permitted development rights (GPDO 1995)?	Yes
Are the proposals likely to require planning permission (TCPA 1990)?	Yes
Are proposals likely to fall under Town and Country Planning EIA Regulations 1999 (SI 293)?	No
Are proposals likely to fall under the Land Drainage EIA Regulations 1999 (SI 1783)?	No
Are proposals likely to fall under other EIA Regulations (specify)?	No
Are proposals likely to require consents under other legislation (specify)?	Yes – Environmental Permit
<p>Notes: Liaison with the EA has been undertaken to ensure careful planning and design for construction phase is achieved.</p>	
<p>This project is to be progressed according to EIA Level: 4</p> <p>NB: This Screening decision has been made in accordance with the requirements of the Land Drainage EIA Regulations 1999 (SI 99/1783) / Town and Country Planning EIA Regulations 1999 (SI 99/293)</p> <p>Further outputs from the EIA process:</p> <p>None</p>	



KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Key environmental issues, raised as a result of a desk study, previous ecological surveys and reports, as well as consultation with internal and external functional specialists on the environmental constraints and opportunities relating to works, are outlined below. These issues should be included/taken into account in the final scope of work.

1.0 POPULATION

- 1.1 Liaison with the landowner, is essential as the works will take place on their land. The area of proposed works is within a constructed river channel. Surrounding land is currently a redundant former Mill not occupied for any purposes, as such there is not likely to be any disturbance to the landowner
- 1.2 There is no public access into the river channel. There is road and foot traffic along Fourteen Meadows Road which runs above the channel on the right-hand bank (RHB) and there is no permitted public access to the adjacent left-hand bank (LHB). Downstream of the site is a foot bridge that crosses the River Douglas.
- 1.3 There is likely to be some degree of noise disturbance during the works, however the construction will occur during normal working hours. The nearest habitation being approximately 200m from the works site and there are some commercial properties near the works area. Noise associated to plant movement is likely to be insignificant and working hours have been stipulated to minimise this further. The overall environmental benefits will mitigate for these disturbances.
- 1.4 The access for construction traffic is possible from Pottery Road to Pottery Terrace, Wigan. Local and businesses will be engaged and made aware of the expected temporary increase in construction traffic, and duration. No habitation will be affected by works traffic.

2.0 FLORA AND FAUNA

- 2.1 There are no statutory designated habitats within a kilometre of the site and the site does not fall into the SSSI Impact Risk Zone.
- 2.2 To the LHB of the weir, National Forest Inventory (GB) and Priority Habitat Inventory; list the broadleaved woodland (3.85h) which also has a non-statutory designation of Community Forest. No works are to be carried out in this area
- 2.3 From a desktop search for INNS associated with the site location there are no species to highlight within the works area. Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has been recorded in the area and is associated with Poolstock Brook which confluences with the River Douglas downstream of the proposed works area.
 - 2.3.1 Ensuring that contractors do not introduce additional INNS or spread INNS from this site to others is a key consideration and suitable control measures must be in place. All plant will be cleaned and disinfected prior to transport to and from site to ensure biosecurity is maintained and contractors will have the appropriate protection in place for works personal.
- 2.4 The Ribble Rivers Trust has not recorded any signs of protected species on the River Douglas within a



kilometre of the works site. A search of The National Biodiversity Network has also revealed no protected species associated with the River Douglas Ribble near the works. However, it should be assumed that they and other typical riverine species such as kingfishers and dippers will occasionally visit the works site.

- 2.4.1 Kingfisher, which is afforded the highest degree of legal protection under the Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981). It is therefore an offence to take, injure or kill a kingfisher or to take, damage or destroy its nest, eggs or young. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the birds close to their nest during the breeding season.
- 2.4.2 Otters, which are fully protected (including resting places) under Section 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation Regulations (Natural Habitats, &c.) 1994. It is an offence to intentionally capture, injure or kill them or to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which otters use for shelter or protection or disturb otters while they are using such a place.
- 2.4.3 Priority Species for CS Targeting list Lapwing in the area. The proposed works area is within the constructed river channel; therefore spp. will not be impacted by the works.

2.5 There are no trees associated with the planned works

2.6 Impacts on Fisheries

- 2.6.1 Under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act it is an offence to interfere with salmonid spawning or redds. The immediate nature of the constructed channel does not provide suitable spawning areas or habitat for salmonid species. Therefore, the work will not have any impact. Pollution control measures will be required to ensure no indirect negative impacts downstream of this location.
- 2.6.2 Coarse fish species are more abundant in the area. The works themselves are not expected to have direct impact, but pollution control measures will be required to ensure no indirect negative impacts. Furthermore, the immediate nature of the constructed channel does not provide habitat for these species.
- 2.6.3 European Eel (*Anguilla Anguilla*) have been recorded in the National Biodiversity Network downstream of the proposed works area. European Eel are a United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan species which will benefit from the works.
- 2.6.4 Due to the nature and the slope of the constructed river channel, it is highly unlikely that any fish would be present within the works area and therefore will negligible risk to all fish species. Pollution control measures will be required to ensure no indirect negative impacts to downstream habitat and species.

3.0 GEOMORPHOLOGY

- 3.1 The site has had an altered Geomorphology as a result of the weir construction and the constructed channel. The planned works will not improve the geomorphology or make it any worse.



4.0 AIR AND CLIMATE

- 4.1 Air emissions from vehicles and machinery should be negligible, as the works are minor. The works will not have any significant impact on climate.

5.0 WATER

- 5.1 The River Douglas is designated as a nitrate vulnerable zone (2017), planned works will not have any impact on this protection.
- 5.2 Machinery or equipment within the site could have the potential to cause minor sedimentary disturbance and siltation. Possible leaks from machinery/equipment also pose a potential risk of pollution, all machinery/equipment shall be serviced ahead of the in-river works and oil will be biodegradable. All pollution prevention guidance will be adhered to. Thus, there should be no ecological concerns.

6.0 SOIL, GEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

- 6.1 The planned works are within a constructed and lined channel, there will be no impact to soil, geology or hydrogeology
- 6.2 There is no indication that contaminated soils would be encountered with planned designs. If, however, abnormal material or substances are discovered during the works, work will cease, and the project manager will be contacted where upon he/she will contact the Environment Agency

7.0 RECREATION, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY

- 7.1 There are no landscape or visual amenity designations, or considerations (AONB Character assessment, or Historic Building Conservation area. It is likely that during works there will be some minor visual impacts, however there will be no long-term significant impacts. Access to the weir is restricted and is not a public space
- 7.2 The amount of litter on general rubbish on site will be cleared as part of the works and contribute to improved visual amenity.
- 7.3 The erection of site compound and access route may cause temporary loss in visual amenity. The site compound will be located to minimise impact on visual amenity from public accessed locations. As part of the demobilisation it has been specified that the contractor must return the site to as near pre works conditions as is reasonably practical.
- 7.4 The proposed design of full removal or the insulation of a sweep fish pass has been based on returning the site to a more natural state, and this is considered to be an improvement in the visual and landscape impacts.
- 7.5 It is known that individuals do frequent the site and use the weir for recreation. These uses present a health and safety concern that is a principle factor in the removal of the weir.
- 7.6 The area is used by Angling interests (Wigan and District Angling Club). Consultation has taken place which has informed method of work and final design. The principle risk to angling interests is considered to be loss



of the weir pool (owing to scour points) and oxygenation. However, river improvements to connectivity will increase fishery value and improve the biological potential of the fish population.

8.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE, ARCHAEOLOGY AND MATERIAL ASSETS

- 8.1 There are no local designations, interest groups or issues relating to Cultural Heritage, Archaeology.
- 8.2 No scheduled ancient monuments (SAMs) or listed structures have been discovered during the screening of the EIA.
- 8.3 There are listed buildings in the area. However, no works will be undertaken that will have any impact on the following buildings.
 - 8.3.1 Swan Meadow Works: Former Workers Welfare Building – Grade II listed. This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. *Comment: Now in a derelict state July 2018.*
 - 8.3.2 Swan Meadow Works: Western Number 2 Mill – Grade II listed. This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. *Comment: Now in a derelict state July 2018.*
 - 8.3.3 Swan Meadow Works: Western Number 3 Mill – Grade II listed. This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. *Comment: in a partially derelict state July 2018.*
 - 8.3.4 Swan Meadow Woeks: Western Number 1 Mill – Grade II listed. This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. *Comment: in a partially derelict state July 2018.*

9.0 USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- 9.1 No use of natural resources from site shall occur.

10.0 OTHERS, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- 10.1 The following table sets out the Risk based assessment on the Environment and the management actions to eliminate, control, reduce and mitigate for identified impacts

TABLE 1 CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Resource/ Environmental Receptor	Cause of Impact	Description of Impact	Action to manage impact	Target Outcome
Population	Construction work.	Landowners activities on site disrupted	Project Manager to liaise with landowner and anyone else with nearby access to the site directly affected by the work to obtain approval, discuss work programme and access requirements.	No complaints
	Machinery movement along access routes and onto main roads.	Disruption to: Landowners Residents Business	Project Manager to liaise with relevant parties to identify suitable access and times for access. Contractors to ensure safety and co-ordinated use of site during the construction period.	No complaints
	Construction Work.	Noise impact caused by construction activities.	Standard working hours to apply during the works.	No complaints made.
Flora and Fauna	Construction work.	Impact on statutory protected species	No evidence that works within the constructed lined channel will have direct impact. Works to be conducted during daylight, and ongoing monitoring by the Ribble Rivers Trust to ensure no impact	Breaches of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and Badgers Act (1992) avoided.
	Construction work.	Impact on fisheries.	Pollution control measures in place, minimise work undertaken in water. Work outside of principle migration and spawning periods.	Breach of the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975) avoided.

	Construction Work.	Spreading of invasive alien species, e.g. Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam.	Contractors to ensure wash down and disinfection of all machinery prior to commencing work on site and before leaving the site.	Breach of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) avoided.
	Construction Work.	Noise disturbance caused by construction activities.	Specify limited daily operation of heavy plant. Work with contractors to identify and refine method of work that minimises noise.	Breach of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) avoided.
Geomorphology	Construction Work.	Alteration of geomorphology	The site has an artificial geomorphology, works will not improve or worsen the current geomorphology	No worsening of current geomorphology
Air & Climate	Machinery vehicle movement.	Vehicle movement leads to depletion in air quality.	Vehicle movements kept to a minimum.	Negligible depletion in air quality from vehicle movement.
Water	Accidental spillage of fuel, & disturbance of silt.	Pollution of water resulting in damage to aquatic environment.	Contractor to arrange, plan & manage work site to protect the watercourse from any pollution, in accordance with Agency pollution prevention guidelines	No water pollution incidents.
	Any excavation.	Unusual substance discovered seeping from soil.	Contractor to contact Project Manager immediately if any unusual substances or materials are found during the works.	Procedure followed if contaminated soil found.
Soil, Geology & Hydrogeology	Construction Works	Contaminants spread from site	Works to be carried out in a constructed lined channel - There is no indication that contaminated soils would be encountered with planned	No contamination of wider area.



			designs	
Recreation, Landscape & Visual Amenity	Construction work	Disturbance to local residents, businesses	Work only to be carried out in designated working hours. No weekend work unless specified	No complaints
Cultural Heritage, Archaeology & Material Assets	Construction & excavation work.	No significant impact anticipated.	N/A	Procedure followed if archaeological remains found.
Use of Natural Resources	N/A			
Other, including cumulative impacts	N/A			

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

The conclusion from the EIA, and the management actions to be implemented, is that there will be no significant negative cumulative impacts to the environment, and considered with the proposed projects benefits there is a net gain to the environment.

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