

Reference: OURD-GAT4

Method of Work: Gathurst Weir

Ribble Rivers Trust

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Gathurst Weir

Method of Work

Introduction

The Ribble Rivers Trust (RRT) in partnership with the Environment Agency (EA) undertook a feasibility study and options appraisal for improving fish passage on the Lower River Douglas at Gathurst Weir (SD 52989 07903). The result of the study has deemed that the construction of a fish pass at this location is the only option to improve the connectivity of the river system for migratory and local fish species in the Douglas catchment.



Figure 1. Gathurst Weir on the River Ribble.

Method of Work

1. Any removal of trees for access to right-hand bank (RHB) marked on 'OURD-GAT27-Site Plan' to be completed before 1st March where necessary.
2. Gian Hogweed spraying to be carried out after the award of contract and again when establishing site.
3. Photographic survey of Forest Fold Farm access track (OURD-GAT12-Site Access) and compound area to be completed. The condition and any existing damage must be documented. The appointed contractor will carry out additional monitoring of condition for the duration of the works.
4. Site setup must be completed before the breaking of water. Site compound to be constructed in the location marked on maps 'OURD-GAT27-Site Plan' and will be accessed via the access route to Forest Fold Farm.
5. Using hardcore establish access under railway bridge to canal swing bridge

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6. Carry out repairs to canal swing bridge for access to field
7. Establish access to weir via canal swing bridge and field.
8. The works will be registered with the EA early flood warning system, such that in the event of a flood, all equipment and personnel will be removed from the channel to ensure free flow of the river. In addition, the site manager will be signed up to MET Office weather warnings and will closely monitor the weather forecast. If a medium to high rainfall event is expected, plant machinery must be removed from the channel.
9. Before any in river works or temporary works are conducted a fish rescue will be carried out where practicable by Ribble Rivers Trust under licence from the Environment Agency. This will entail using stop nets or equivalent to enclose the area of work and electric fishing the area a minimum of three times. Rescued fish will then be released a suitable distance downstream.
10. Temporary works set up and dewatering - stop nets to be removed after the temporary works are in place
11. Sediment traps will be placed downstream of the working area to filter any drainage from the works and reduce sediment input into the stream.
12. Construction of fish pass as detailed in construction designs
13. After the works have been completed the access routes and compound are to be removed in a way, such that land is restored to an acceptable condition. Hard core from field boundary to canal bridge to be left to improve site access for farmer.
14. Once works have been completed, canal swing-bridge must be left in good condition with boards and railings restored.
15. A post works survey will be conducted along the length of access, making good any damage on completion of the works. Photographs of pre and post repairs to the access will be documented.

Duration of Work

It is expected that the works will take 8 weeks, assuming no delays for weather.

Pollution Prevention

1. Silt matting will be used to mitigate against sediment risk
2. The contractor will adhere to Environment Agency pollution prevention guidelines (PPG5) for working in or near water.
3. Hydraulic and lubricating oils used in the machinery shall be biodegradable.
4. A spillage kit shall be present on site at all times.
5. Any spills or other pollution incidents will be reported to the Environment Agency immediately via the pollution hotline 0800 807060.