



# the River Restoration Centre

Working to restore and enhance our rivers

## Technical Advice

### Coleshill Mill, River Cole

Management assessment for Coleshill Mill

#### KEY INFO

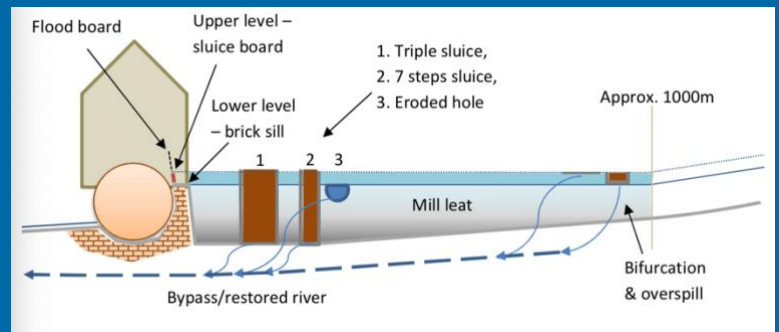
**Date:** November 2018

**Clients:** National Trust

**Type:** History and options for management

**Themes:** Structure maintenance

Location	Actions - Red, Amber, Green indicates combined timescale, priority and cost.	Timescale	Priority	Cost band
Mill undershot sluices	Clear any debris from the base of the sluice and seat the boards well to limit leakage. Restrict their operation to reduce drawing silt into the mill leat	Short	H	n/a
	Replace boards when necessary	Long	M	M
Concrete overflow weir	Impermeable membrane to line the front face of the boards and stop the leaks Construct a wall between the footbridge and the wooden boards to create a permanent watertight solution	Short	H	L
	Bury the entire structure and revert back to an 'earth' bank	Long	M	M
Seven steps weir	Insert a membrane/plate down in front of the sluice to reduce leakage Refurbish or make redundant the sluice	Short	H	L
	Locate and plug the eroded upstream hole with membrane and stiff clay	Long	L	M
Seven steps erosion hole	Locate and plug the eroded upstream hole with membrane and stiff clay	Short	H	L
	Create a better seal between the 7 steps wall and the leat embankment	Medium	H	M
Mill leat embankment	Exclude stock from mill leat banks	Short	H	L
Mill leat vegetation	Sympathetic management plan for silt and vegetation growth	Medium	M	M/H
Bifurcation structure	Reset weir board levels, removing any additional boards	Short	H	n/a
	Reconfigure the upstream flow split and structure to allow fish passage and sediment transport, still enabling the operation of the mill	Medium	M	H
Mill leat grassed overspills	Exclude stock to reduce trampling	Short	H	n/a



The RRC were asked by the National Trust to provide a management options assessment for Coleshill Mill, Wiltshire. A leat was constructed to provide water to the mill and in the 1990s, restoration of the natural river course took place to divert the majority of flow away from the mill building to protect it from flooding. Now, the mill is used for demonstrations, but staff have found that operation of the mill has become increasingly difficult due to a reduction of flow.

The RRC assessment included a walkover of the site with other stakeholders to identify problem areas. Problems identified include cattle poaching, leakage of sluices and earth banks, and sediment/vegetation accumulation reducing river channel capacity. A management report was compiled which contained a breakdown of the problem areas with short-, medium- and long-term action points that were assigned a cost value and priority band. Management options suggestions included:

- Plugging leaks in the leat
- Cattle fencing to establish a riparian barrier
- Repairing significant structures and removing structures with little value to mill functioning
- Riparian planting and floodplain reconnection

