River Dove Restoration and Weir Removal: A River Restoration Continuum in Stakeholder Engagement

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Background

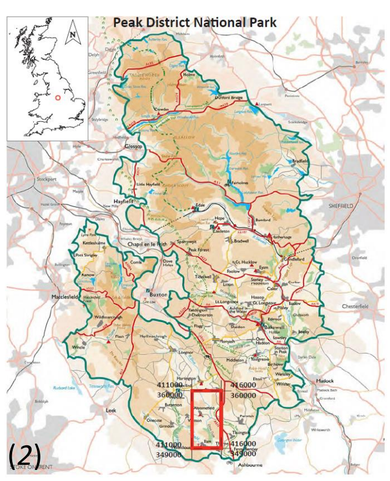
- The longitudinal connectivity in highly constructed rivers, such as the River Dove, is imperiled. This hinders the natural hydromorphological processes and fish migration.
- Weir removal is pivotal to achieve a dynamic heterogeneous River, and combinations of weirs need to be removed.
- Stakeholders perceive the expected hydrological changes differently based on their interests, and stakeholder views drive the weir removal selection.

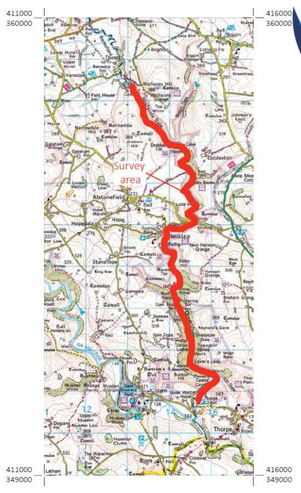
Besides, stakeholder views vary along the river and attitudes change over time

- Weirs successfully removed at the lower and higher reaches where naturalised river trout fishing is favoured.
- Connectivity discontinuation remains at the middle reaches that favour trout stocking and weir pool fishing.

Challenge: working for PEOPLE and working for NATURE

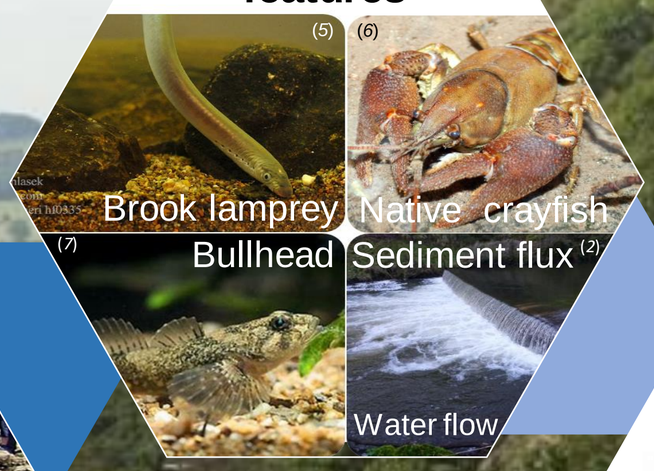
Location





Primary users

Protected features



Stakeholders

National Trust
PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK
Environment Agency
(8, 9) Angling clubs
WILD TROUT TRUST
NATURAL ENGLAND
trent rivers trust
TISSINGTON HALL

Issue extent

177 weirs in 7 miles

Weir removal selection factors

- landscape management
- angling
- tourism
- naturalness
- cultural heritage
- habitat connectivity

Heritage perspective: 10 weirs need to be restored, 132 can be breached or lowered, and 21 can be left to erode naturally

Progress achieved

1) removed or lowered only 12 weirs since 2015
2) Identified lateral connectivity sites and removed bank revetment
3) Condition assessment, and biological monitoring underway
4) Large woody material introduced (10)

- **Effective restoration is subject to the "River Restoration Continuum in Stakeholder Engagement" in both space and time.**
- **Have we reached the end? or should conservation wait a generation?**

(1) ©National Trust

NATURAL ENGLAND
Environment Agency
WILD TROUT TRUST

References
(1) River Dove Restoration Plan, Natural England Joint Publication JP013 (2015), (2) Dovedale and Wolfscote Dale Heritage Assessment, Trent Rivers Trust, ArcHeritage (2016), (3) Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association (2021) https://www.shutterstock.com/video/clip-32099578-silhouette-fisherman-sunrise-on-morning-fishing-sunset, (4) Derek Dye, https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2540158, (5) Lubomir Hlasek (2021) Lampetra planeri Minóg strumieniowy Mihuľa potočná Европейская ручьевая минога Lamproie Planer Beekprik Lamprea arroyo Pikkunahkiainen Lampreda comune Lampredina Bekkeniøye Bäcknejonöga Dere taşemeni European brook lamprey Western Mihule potoční Bachneunauge (hlasek.com), (6) EuropeanCrayfish.Org (2021) http://european-crayfish.org/?Photo_galleries:European_crayfish_species, (7) Von Frank Leo (2015) https://www.fokus-natur.de/bilder/fische/westgroppe-cottus_gobio-71435.html, (8) The Daily Hush, Igor Lukyanov (2021) Fish Sketch (Trout) (drawingsketchaday.blogspot.com), (9) Indiapicturebudget (2021) Outline and silhouette of fish grayling Stock Vector Image by ©kvasay #69652281, (10) Jana Ruzena (2021) Escapes and Photography: Dovedale and Thorpe Cloud (janaruzena.blogspot.com).