

Fixed Point Photography (FPP)

Why do FPP?

- It is easy to use and a cost effective way of monitoring any type of river restoration works or on-going river processes.
- It visually demonstrates the benefits of works/processes to non-technical audiences, but can also be used to generate a meaningful analysis for monitoring and project evaluation.
- It helps to flag up any issues that might occur before, during or after the project. By visually recording change it allows you to identify and mitigate for any issues as soon as possible. These may go unnoticed without this structured approach.

How to start FPP

1. I have not yet taken any photos of my project/site

You should take photos at all locations where works are taking place AND any additional locations where you expect change to occur.

OR

2. I have taken photos of my project/site

If you have already taken some photos (not fixed point), then you can incorporate these into your FPP programme if they are at locations where works have taken place or change is expected to occur.

What do I need?

- A camera - preferably a good quality digital camera. It is an advantage if the camera has a built in GPS, but this is not necessary.
- A detailed map of the area where you are carrying out the works which you would like to monitor. This is used to record where you have taken your photos and in which direction each has been taken (see Figure 1). A hand-held or built-in GPS could also be used to mark the points on a digital map.
- Printed copies of previous photos from your fixed points; the first set and the most recent set will help you to identify exactly where you need to stand to accurately re-take the photos. This can be difficult to spot, especially in different seasons.

Golden rules for good Fixed Point Photography:

- **Start AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** The sooner you can start the more meaningful the result will be. Repeat as often as possible, but as a minimum you should take photos before, during, immediately after and some time after any works are complete. Take three photos at each point facing upstream, across the river and downstream.
- Try to **use the same camera/type of camera each time** you go out and preferably the same person taking the photos.
- **Pick your locations carefully.** It is really important to avoid areas where large trees or vegetation could grow up and obstruct the view next time you want to repeat your photos. Do pick your location thinking about how you frame your photo to make it easier to re-take next



time e.g. use trees/fences/buildings in your photo to make it easy to “line up” the same shot when you come back. Try to frame each of the four corners of the photo.

- **Remember that the FUNCTION of the photos** is to show change based on your project aims and objectives.
- **Precision is key.** You must take the photos at EXACTLY the same point each time or the meaning is lost. Make notes on each photo point you add to your map e.g. stood 1m back from edge of bank on bend apex, top left hand corner of photo to line up with edge of woodland on opposite bank. Also record the height at which the photo was taken. This will help if someone else has to go out and take the photos next time.

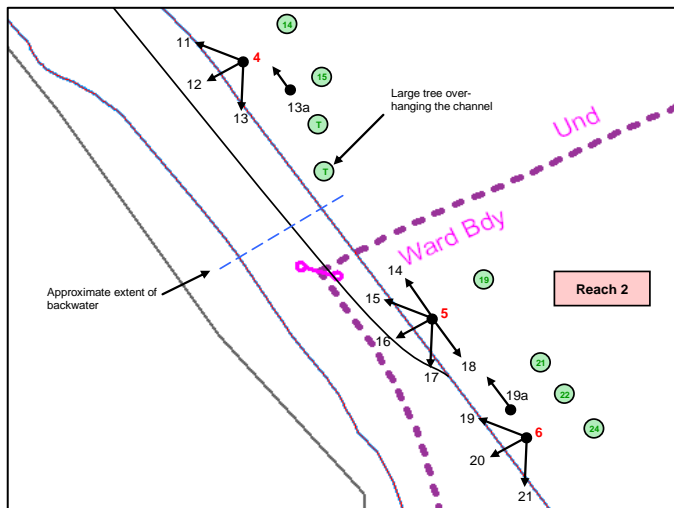


Figure 1 Example map of FPP points. Mark the exact location for your FPP points on the map, including the directions for your three upstream, across and downstream photos.

- **Be observant.** Each time you go out look around, check for any new areas where change is occurring. If you see new areas, incorporate these into your map and start taking photos here.

A good example of fixed point photography:



Before works



During works



Immediately after completion



Two years after works

For further guidance please contact the RRC technical team

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