



RRC Site Visit Series

River Kent, Bowston Weir

Friday 12th April 2024

Join us in Cumbria to visit the Bowston Weir removal on the River Kent. This project was a 2023 UK River Prize Finalist, removed during June and July 2022 with aims to improve the ecological health of the River Kent while also reducing the risk of flooding for local communities and continues to be monitored closely. We will also be visiting the Longsleddale river restoration project on the River Sprint.



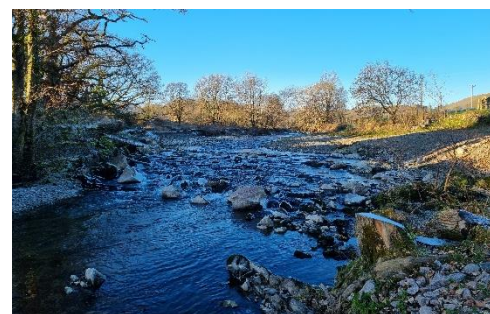
South
Cumbria
Rivers
Trust

Site visit lead
Pete Evoy & Mike West
(South Cumbria Rivers Trust)

The Project

Bowston Weir removal

The River Kent is one of 3 major rivers draining the Lake District, NW England. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation but has suffered from over 150 years of human modifications. Removal was achieved in the summer of 2022 representing the first major weir removed on this protected river and one of the largest removed in England. Monitoring since the works were completed has recorded that morphologic and associated habitat functioning and diversity has increased dramatically over the conditions seen when the weir was in place. Stored sediment is slowly being released from behind the old structure allowing morphological development to progress downstream further improving the condition of the watercourse over a longer reach.



Longsleddale river restoration project, River Sprint

The Longsleddale valley has long history of modifications being made to the river, including straightening, bank protection and flood embankment creations. The landowners of the projects site have taken a step change approach to land (and farm) management. Their contact with SCRT was based on the ethos that they wanted to get the river in as good a condition as possible. Phase 1 of 3 has been completed, including embankment removal, riffle-pool creation, pond creation, and floodplain reconnection through tributaries, allowing rewetting and gravel fan deposits. The site has already begun to readjust following the work. Natural processes have begun to establish and the site is recovering well. Further phases will include embankment realignment work, floodplain flow deflectors, and wet woodland creation.

Information

This site visit is **FREE to RRC members** (£10 deposit to be refunded following attendance at site visit). If space is available, non-members are welcome to attend at a cost of £30. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book a place please complete a booking form at the [link here](#). Booking closes when all spaces are allocated.

- The visit will start at 10:00 and end by 15:00. This will include time for a packed lunch (not supplied).
- Meeting point: Laithwaite Farm (what3words: bits.pesky.likely)
- Driving will be necessary as we will be travelling to Low House Farm (what3words: pencil.lipstick.glow) approx. 5 miles from Laithwaite Farm.
- Wellington boots and waterproof clothing are recommended

[Watch the project video](#)

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