



Removing or bypassing barriers

The most suitable restoration option for a weir will depend on a number of factors. These include the structural make-up of the weir, the condition of the river upstream and downstream, the aims of the catchment plan, the surrounding land use, funding, and the presence of protected structures and habitats. No single option is suitable for all situations.

There is, however, a general order in which measures should be considered. This is because some measures provide greater benefits to restoring natural processes and allowing free passage. For example, whilst a fish pass will focus on passage for some fish species, the impoundment remains. Whereas weir removal will provide free access up and downstream for all biota, as well as restore hydrological connectivity and sediment movement. Other case studies and guidance can be found in CIRIA's [River Weirs - Design, maintenance, modification and removal](#) guidance.

