

DNaire Fish Pass Schemes

Enhancing migratory fish movement



Overview

Client: Environment Agency and Aire Rivers Trust

Value: £1.725 m **Duration:** 26 months

Suttles worked in partnership with the Environment Agency and Aire Rivers Trust to design and construct the "Developing the Natural Aire" project, or DNAire.

This was a flagship project that had the ultimate objective of restoring iconic Atlantic Salmon populations to the River Aire and re-connecting local communities with their river.

The construction of fish passes on four weirs, would remove the last major barriers to migratory fish movement between the North Sea and Gargrave near Skipton in North Yorkshire.

With this new improved access for salmon and coarse fish such as dace, chub and barbel are now able to move freely up and downstream to discover the most beneficial environments to feed, breed and shelter. For more information, please visit www.dnaire.org.uk

Solution

The successful completion of the four fish passes would require Suttle Projects proven approach in simplifying every element through the entire survey, scope, design, pre-planning and implementation phases at each of these unique weir locations.

The ecological sensitive environment demanded meticulous up-front attention to detail, buildable designs, and clear communications throughout planning, execution and handover.

The fish pass designs had to meet many ecological and environmental parameters. 3D visualisations were created to ensure the potential impact of the proposed designs were properly considered and design packs prepared for each location.

In such challenging working environments, the up-front attention to detail had to ensure that all the requisite permissions, approvals and licences were proactively obtained, and that all stakeholder agreements were in place in advance to meet the required timescales.

Planning permissions were required for each site, EA National Fish Panel approval, flood permits and

risk assessments and architectural and heritage constraints were required. Schedule monuments approval was also required at the Kirkstall site and listed building consents were necessary for the Armley, Kirkstall and Newlay weirs.

Dilapidation surveys were provided prior to commencement of the site activities and riverbed contamination/sediment testing was undertaken at all worksite locations.

With all the critical planning and pre-construction activities in place construction could then be carefully commenced. Cantilever sheet pile cofferdam temporary works were installed to create a safe and secure worksite with environmentally sensitive de-watering solutions.

The new fish pass channels themselves were constructed in high quality reinforced concrete. These were faced with masonry and other traditional finishes to blend in aesthetically with the immediate local heritage and surroundings at each location.

On completion operations and maintenance manuals were provided and a photographic survey of the completed works.

Simplifying Projects Better more reliable outcomes

Rapid Response: Joe Paine, MD 07872 373 690

General Enquiries: 01929 439444

Project Enquiries: info@suttleprojects.co.uk

