

# Keeping you informed

## Low Mill Weir Addingham fish pass proposal

October 2023

**The Environment Agency works to improve the quality and biodiversity of our rivers. Part of this work is helping migratory fish overcome river obstacles to reach upstream spawning grounds.**

### Fish passage on the river Wharfe

The river Wharfe is a major tributary of the river Ouse which then flows into the Humber Estuary.

The river has a healthy stock of all main riverine coarse fish species, along with brown trout and grayling. However, migratory fish like salmon, sea trout and lamprey struggle to prosper due to major obstructions such as weirs. Despite healthy fish stocks, and the addition of several new fish passes along the river, the Wharfe fails ecological quality standards due to the absence of migratory fish upstream of Otley.

The 2015 Humber River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), produced to meet Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirements, sets statutory objectives for waterbodies and summarises measures to achieve them. The plan sets out that the Environment Agency will seek to remove artificial barriers to fish migration for all species.

**The Environment Agency is proposing to review options to install a fish pass at Addingham Low Mill Weir, to allow all species of fish to travel further upstream, enhancing the ecology and biodiversity of the river.**

At this stage we are currently reviewing possible options. To allow us to carry out this review, several essential but non-intrusive surveys are required in the coming months. These are necessary to ensure any future proposals can protect and enhance the environment to a high standard, whilst also allowing us to understand in detail the local environment.

### What needs to be done?

Our delivery partners will be undertaking a suite of surveys, involving a mixture of desk-based and non-intrusive surveys and reports, including heritage, planning and ecology. You may see our partners around the area carrying out these surveys which include:

**GPR Surveys** – to locate existing utility services.

**Visual weir surveys** – to understand weir condition.

**Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)** – an assessment of the ecological features within the site and surrounding area.

**Geomorphological walkover survey** – an inspection of the site and surrounding area

**Landscape walkover survey** - to understand the historic landscape.

### Where can you find out more?

We will keep the community updated by newsletter. If you would like to receive these updates, please email us at [addinghampass@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:addinghampass@environment-agency.gov.uk) and we will ensure you are kept updated. If you would like to get in touch or have questions about the project, please

email us at the above address and we will be happy to help.

### **General enquiries**

National Customer Contact Centre  
PO Box 544  
Rotherham  
S60 1BY  
United Kingdom

[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### **Telephone**

03708 506 506 Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

### **Environment incident hotline**

Telephone (24-hour service)

0800 80 70 60

### **Floodline**

Telephone (24-hour service)

0345 988 1188

Type talk (for the hard of hearing)

0345 602 6340