

Replacement of Godstow Trout Weir

October 2020

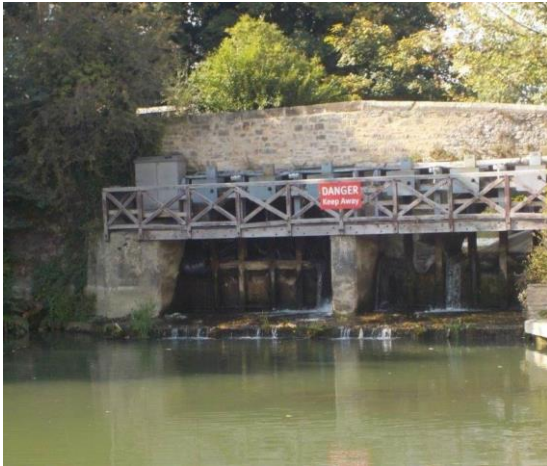


Figure 1. The current weir next to the Trout Inn

What's happening?

We are replacing the weir on the River Thames, located next to the Trout Inn at Godstow, in Oxfordshire.

We will remove the old weir structure and build a new weir, two metres downstream. This will allow for better debris clearance. For the last year we have been working on the detailed design of the new weir and applying for funding.

The weir will look largely the same, as we will be using the same design of gates. There will be an additional structure to the left (looking upstream) which will allow fish and eels to make their way up river. This clip explains what a fish pass is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2gKfTW9q0A>

This has been a complex project due to the number of heritage and landscape considerations at the site. We have had to liaise with multiple agencies to gain permission for these works.

If funding is awarded, we aim to start construction of the new weir in May 2021.

How we will complete the works?

We have taken the decision to construction the new weir through the spring and summer of 2021. This is because autumn and winter are more likely to see higher water levels.

The weir will take around 30 weeks to build.

To construct the new weir, we will create a dry working area, by installing stand-alone temporary dams as well as using the old weir to hold back the river.

We will use Weir A (near Godstow Lock) to manage flows while Weir B is out of operation and will enact our flood plan if we get significantly high flows during the construction period.

The works area will be screened to reduce dust and noise to the surrounding area. We believe that most of the Trout Inn patio eating area will remain open for customers.

We will have two site compounds - fenced areas used to store materials and house welfare units. One located in the Abbey grounds and one on the Trout Inn island closer to the works.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88



Figure 2. A visualisation of what the new weir will look like, with new fish pass structure.

Timeline of activity

Financial Year	Activity
20/21	Detailed design
21/22	Construction Jan 21 - Tree works April 21 - Site setup May 21 - Works begin

How will it affect the local community?

While we are constructing the new weir, there will be short periods of disruption to the public.

Prior to the weir works, we will upgrade the power supply to the weir.

We will bring in most deliveries of heavy machinery and materials via the A34 and Wytham village. We will also bring in concrete deliveries via Wolvercote village due to weight limits. We will always do our best to warn you ahead of these times via newsletters and community notices. We ask for your patience through this time. However for the majority of the period of works, there won't be any disruption.

Local businesses will remain open, including the Trout Inn. Notice boards near the site will explain what is happening. Our project team will oversee the smooth running of the construction works. They can be contacted below with queries.

How will this affect the boating community?

Our main delivery route to the works area will be from the field where Godstow Abbey is located. We will be using floating pontoons temporarily across the main navigation channel to move equipment across to the island.

We will do this in a way, to minimise disruption to the boating community. This will mean there are times (a few hours) when the ability to navigate is temporarily suspended. After this the pontoons will be stored away from the navigable channel.

We will advertise the periods of disruption via a Harbour Master's Notice, on our website, at adjacent locks and via newsletters. Environment Agency works on the River Thames are published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-restrictions-and-closures>

Contact us

If you would like more information, or to pass on a comment or concern, please contact:

Nicola Shorter in the Asset Performance (Upper Thames) Team via the customer service line below or email: Nicola.shorter@environment-agency.gov.uk

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