



Town Mill Fish Pass, Marlborough

Action for the River Kennet are building a fish pass just upstream of the bridge between Kennet Place and Town Mill.

Work will start in mid-September and continue for around four weeks.

What is a fish pass?

A fish pass is a way to make it easy for fish to swim up and down the river. In this instance the existing weir, which has a drop of more than a metre, will be replaced with a series of 3 pools and steps. The structure will be built of oak and concrete.

The photograph on the right is an example of a typical pool type fish pass. Each step is low enough for a fish to be able to swim over.



Why build a fish pass?

In 2011/12 the river upstream from Marlborough dried up completely and thousands of fish died as a result.

Now the river has water in it again the new fish pass will let fish swim upstream to repopulate the river towards Manton, Clatford, West Overton and above. At the moment fish above Marlborough are largely isolated from the fish living below Marlborough because they can't easily swim up the weir between Kennet Place and Town Mill, or through the sluice gates between the river at the back of Waitrose and the Town Mill weir pool. The obstacles in their path no longer serve a purpose, and across the UK redundant structures like these are being removed or altered to create a more natural river. This results in a better habitat, particularly for Brown Trout and Grayling, and other smaller species of fish.

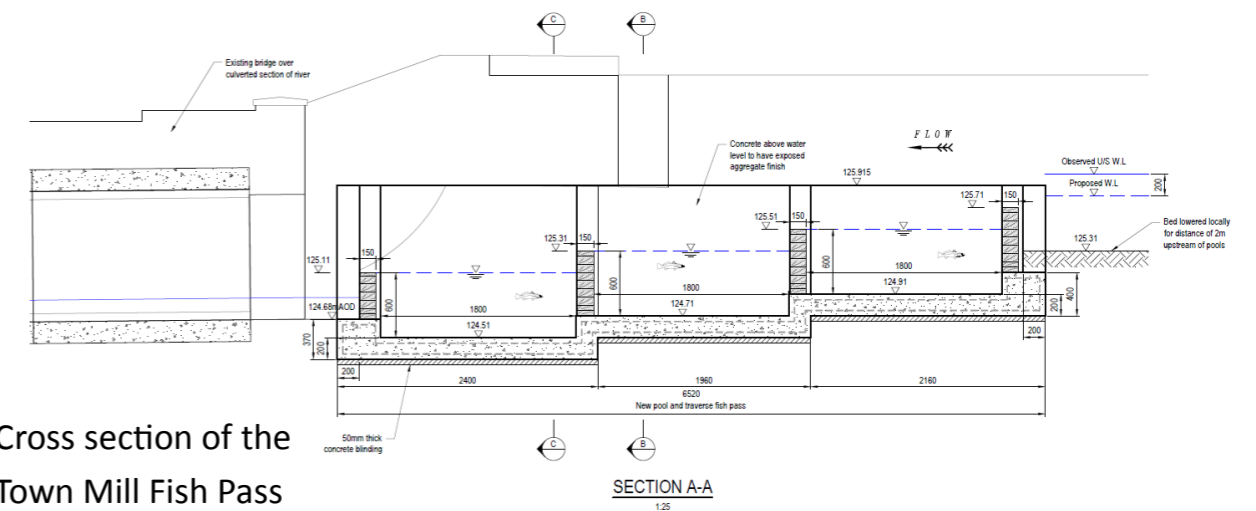


Who is paying for the work?

ARK has been funded by the Rivers Trust to build this fish pass. It is one of many similar projects across England and Wales. The projects are designed to improve the health of our rivers.

If you have any questions please call Charlotte Hitchmough 07880 515859

www.riverkennet.org



Cross section of the Town Mill Fish Pass