

BISHOP'S HULL GAUGING WEIR

Bishop's Hull is a village and civil parish in Somerset. The Hull Gauging Station is situated on Nether clay near the Old Mill and was originally constructed along with a concrete weir between 1967 and 1968.

Land & Water were contracted to improve the low flow measuring accuracy of the weir, upgrade the remote monitoring infrastructure, increase biodiversity at the site, improve fish migration and create a safe passage for the endangered European eel to travel up and over the weir.

The use of Land & Water's long reach excavator meant that we could reach all areas of the channel whilst maintaining a safe set back from the retaining wall of the weir. Works began with the demolition of the existing building structure and equipment whilst protecting the stilling entry.

A temporary dam was then installed to the right-hand channel to enable us to remove the existing weir crest and slopes. A section of the concrete base was also removed to tie in to the new dividing wall which was formed along with the new slopes and crest. The new crest was installed completing the in-channel works. A new set of access steps were also created.

With the majority of the in-channel works taking place over the winter months, water levels, weather conditions and temperatures at times dictated the pace of the project. However, continued monitoring and long-range forecasting helped mitigate the challenges of working instream.

Restricted access also meant that not all deliveries could be made directly to site. Some plant and materials needed to be delivered to our Southwest yard and broken down and redelivered in smaller vehicles.

Ground conditions also made it difficult to bring larger items of plant on to site. Good traffic management and the use of banksmen made it possible to fit even the largest of cement wagons, concrete pumps and even long reach excavators into an area with such a modest footprint.



Project Particulars

Client: Environment Agency (SE Hub)
November 2022 - June 2023



PROJECT
VALUE:

£445,000