



**Don Catchment Rivers Trust**  
Working to protect and restore your rivers

Don Catchment Rivers Trust  
Sedum House, Potteric Carr  
1 Mallard Way  
Doncaster  
DN4 8DB

[www.dcrtr.org.uk](http://www.dcrtr.org.uk)

These are the questions that were asked at the consultation meeting on 15 January 2013 and the responses from our discussions. Consultees were asked to write any other thoughts/questions on post-it notes. The blue text is the response from DCRT and Arup.

### **Do you want to know anything more?**

Environmental Impact of work – *This will be kept to a minimum and where possible we will seek to enhance the environment*

Storrs Bridge development – planning gain – *We will work with the owners of the site and consult Sheffield Planning to identify opportunities to access Section 106 funding to contribute to our work.*

Other fish populations – *With the exception of brown trout, there are only two other species present which are indigenous to the Loxley. These are bullhead and brook lamprey. Neither of these species is likely to be adversely impacted upon by what is proposed, there are in fact opportunities to enhance the habitat, particularly for brook lamprey, which are a present in only small numbers. Both of these species are classified as endangered, even though bullhead are relatively common in the Yorkshire Region. Other species such as chub, roach, perch etc. which are occasionally found in the river, represent stock which have escaped from connected still waters.*

Impact of compensation flows – *Hull Fisheries Institute are presently carrying out research into the benefits of manipulating compensation flows to maximise their potential in inducing fish to move up to spawning sites. This may take the form of releases of water to simulate spate conditions. The work is being funded by Yorkshire Water.*

### **POST-IT NOTES**

Where are the spawning grounds? Why this river not the others? – *There are a number of suitable sites on the river, generally from the middle, upstream. There are also opportunities to create new spawning areas by the introduction of suitably sized gravel.*

*Of the 4 streams in the Sheffield area, Sheaf, Porter, Rivelin and Loxley, only the Loxley represents a good option for salmon (as conditions stand at the moment), because of the physical and chemical conditions, size and flow. It is the intention of the Trust to expand its work on fish passage all the way up the Don, as opportunities allow.*

If salmon return will the EA employ bailiffs to stop poaching? – *Under the 1975 Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act the Environment Agency has a duty to protect fisheries and enforce the fisheries regulations. This will apply to the Loxley. Salmon reaching the spawning gravels would normally be in a gravid condition (have lost their attractive silver colouration and be ready to lay*



*their eggs) in this condition they are relatively unattractive to eat and would be unlikely to be saleable.*

What has been the reaction of land owners so far? - *The reaction has been positive, so far.*

Would ponds need to be emptied? In what ways would owners be expected to contribute? When? What order? – *We would not anticipate having to drain any of the dams. There may need to be a temporary alteration to the feed of water, but we would not expect this to have any adverse impact. In terms of maintenance, this will be most likely to be limited to occasional debris clearance and the removal of silt build up. This is likely to be a couple of times a year and after a storm event and should not be too onerous. Land owners may also be able to contribute at the feasibility stage when we are considering access routes for machinery to the site: local knowledge of possible routes, any restrictions and offers of the use of adjacent land for access and construction will be useful to help minimise the disruption to the local environment.*

*The Trusts ambition is to set up a local group to take on the responsibility of carrying out general maintenance of the fish passes. This would require the support and consent of the owners. The extent of this responsibility will be determined by the type of passage facility chosen for the individual sites. Our programme for construction would be to begin at Hillsborough, working progressively upstream.*

### **What are your thoughts?**

Explore other opportunities to enhance environment – *we will be investigating this when we bid for money to carry out the project*

Engage English Heritage – *As part of the archaeological report that we commissioned, the consultant archaeologist is going to deal with English Heritage*

Interim easements – *a possibility – this will need to be discussed further*

Sensitivity to local users – ‘a gem to Sheffield’ – minimum intervention – multiple benefits – *We recognise this - see answer below*

### **POST-IT NOTES**

Keep fish pass interventions as low key and as naturalistic as possible! Where possible include other habitat or access improvements *The solutions will aim to connect with the present environment and be as sympathetic as possible to the surroundings. Where possible this will include localised improvements to the habitat up and downstream for fish and incorporate other improvements to the general environment where this is feasible and economical.*



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What about pike in the Loxley? – *Pike appear occasionally when they are flushed out of Damflask. They are in an alien environment in the Loxley and are unlikely to survive for long.*

What about Dam Flask? – *Dam Flask reservoir is currently an impassable structure for fish and creating a fish pass at this location would be costly and have limited benefits. Therefore the limit of fish migration will be to the toe of Stacy Bank weir. Damflask is the source of compensation flows which are being examined to determine the best options to protect and improve the fishery. Discussions could be instigated with Yorkshire Water in order to create a more beneficial artificial spate flow from the reservoir: we understand that there is research on-going to determine whether this is an effective course of action.*

Is the fish pass in Millhouses Park a good example to look at? – *The fish pass in Millhouses represents a good example of a naturalised fish pass which is attractive and has wider social benefits. This solution might not be possible for the weirs on the Loxley due to the land take required to create such a channel to bypass the higher weirs on this river. However we will seek to take an example from the Millhouses park fish pass in terms of its attractiveness and social benefit.*

### **What would you like to contribute?**

Active volunteer group

Knowledge of groups

### **POST-IT NOTES**

Access – depending on how & on what part of the weir the build will take place - *Access requirements will be dependent on the solutions proposed: if small scale low cost easements are adopted, access will likely be needed only for local volunteers using small equipment and small quantities of materials. For larger engineering options access will be required for larger plant and materials. Ideally access will be available to the side of the weir where the work is proposed, however this may not be possible at all locations.*

River Stewardship Company – support with developing the project – possibly a steering group? Also to put into place a mechanism for maintenance