

R&D Technical Summary W5B-023/TS

River Weirs - Good Practice Guide

Background to R&D project

Every year works are carried out on a large number of weirs that are sited in rivers. Any alterations to such weirs that may benefit the interests of one function may have unforeseen effects, possibly adverse, on another function. In addition, safety at weirs for both operational and recreational users is now a high priority, and guidance is needed on safe designs, and possible modifications of existing weirs to improve safety

It is therefore important that all parties engaged in planning works on weirs understand the potential impacts of alterations to weirs, and how to ensure that all such potential impacts have been considered in the feasibility study of any proposed works - and indeed when considering the 'Do Nothing' option for a weir in a poor condition.

Results of R&D project

The project consulted widely, both within the Agency (across a range of functions) and externally, to assess the current understanding of the effect that weirs have on the interests of a range of stakeholders.

Whilst many stakeholders were aware of the impact of weirs on their own interests, it was found that few were aware of the full range of potential impacts that could result from the construction of new weirs, or the modification or demolition of existing weirs. This resulted in guidance note that aims to provide advice and guidance to all parties engaged in planning works on weirs, so as to ensure that mistakes are avoided and opportunities are not missed. However, it was realised that a technical treatise would be inappropriate, given the wide range of backgrounds, knowledge and experience of the readers. It was concluded that the output should therefore aim to point the reader in the right direction, and warn of any pitfalls.

R&D Outputs and their Use

The output from this project is an R&D Publication that is intended to provide authoritative guidance to all parties who have an interest in the construction, refurbishment, or demolition of weirs in England and Wales. It also addresses the issues of importance to those responsible for the operation and maintenance of such weirs. Its overriding aim is to make all parties aware of the wide range of issues that are of importance in planning and implementing such works, and by doing so, to ensure that mistakes are avoided and potential benefits are maximised.

The target audience is a wide range of stakeholders with interests in weirs, who can use the output to be better informed in any decision-making concerning weirs.

This R&D Technical Summary relates to R&D Project No. W5B-023/HQP and the following R&D outputs:

- **R&D Publication – River Weirs – Good Practice Guide.** Awaiting publication July 2003

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The above outputs are available on the Environment Agency website:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodresearch.

Copies are held by all EA Regional Information Centres and can be purchased from the EA's R&D Dissemination Centre, c/o WRC, Frankland Road, Blagrove, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 8YF (Tel: (+44) 1793-865012; Fax: (+44) 1793-514562; email: publications@wrcplc.co.uk).

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