



Medieval Weir Removal in UK

How to deconstruct ancient history

Chris Grzesiok and Paul Herickx



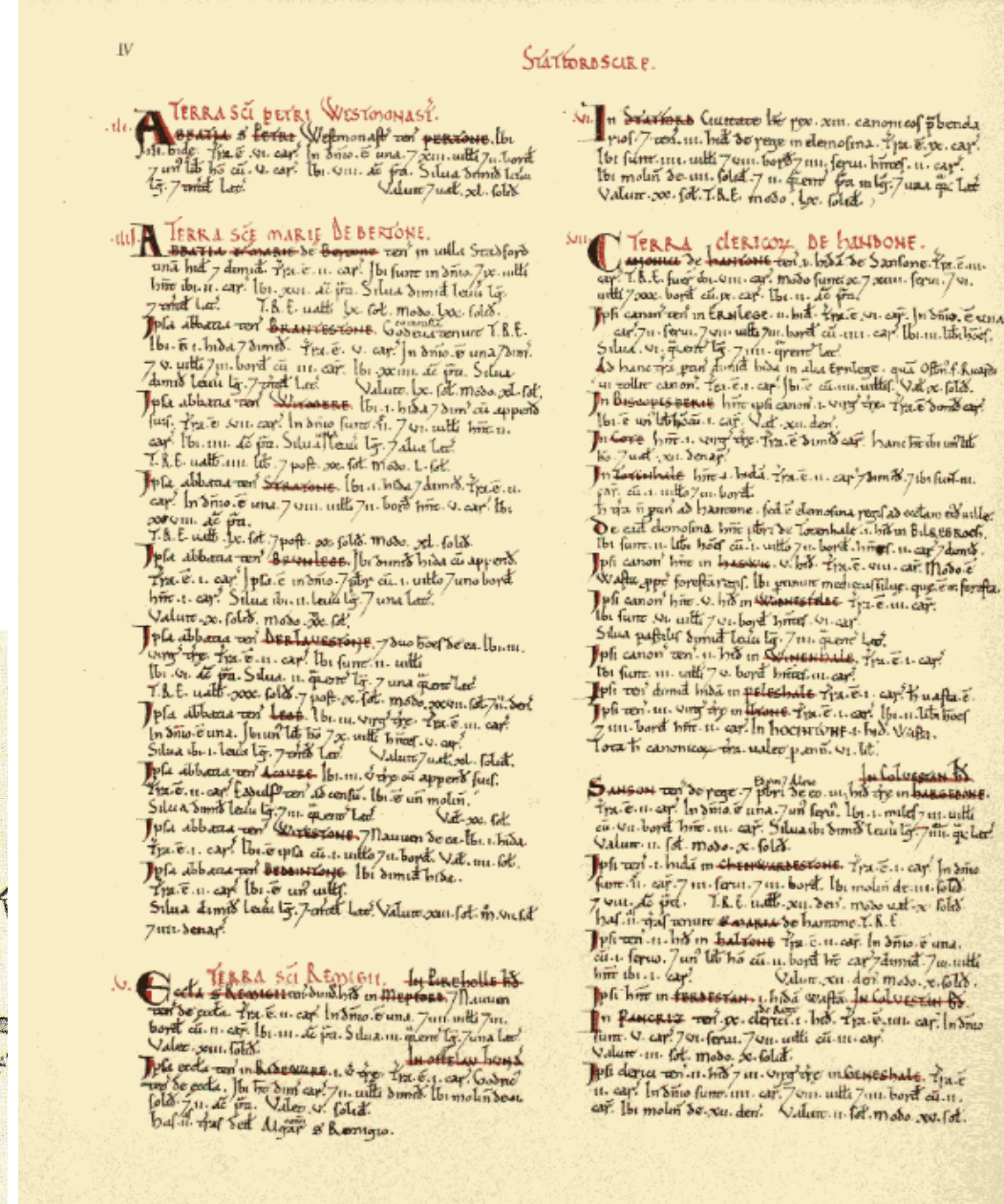
Dovecliff Weir



Dovecliff Heritage

Not formally mentioned in the Domesday book (1086), however, work for the channel would have started between 1086 and 1342

- Cliff Mill first mentioned in 1342
- Operated as a corn mill until 1733
- 1753 – 1881 it was used to power a forge
- Mill demolished in 1963



Long Road to Realisation

The High's and Low's of Removing an Historic Structure



Aug 2021
Complete

*'This option is not practical
because the weir is of
cultural/heritage
importance'*

Justification & Approvals

Sept 2019
Work Starts

Archaeological Work

May 2020
Work Restarts

2018
Designs
Approved

2012
How Much?

2017
Justification

Dec 2020
Flooding

Mar 2020
Work Restarts

Mar 2020
COVID - 19

Jun 2020
Archaeology

2009
Feasibility

Historic weir could be removed to help fish

PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE RIVER DOVE'S BIODIVERSITY BUT CONCERNS ARE RAISED OVER FLOODING RISKS

The Environment Agency is considering removing Dove Cliff Weir, in Eggington, to allow fish, such as salmon, and other animals to move further upstream

Why this historic weir in South Derbyshire could be removed

People are being asked to give their opinions on the proposals

CONTROVERSIAL £1.5 million plans to part demolish an ancient weir near Burton allowing fish to swim upstream have got the thumbs-up from anglers – despite fears that a “glorious” structure will be lost to an “act of vandalism.”

WILDLIFE AND CUT COSTS

Historic dam being removed to prevent A38 flooding

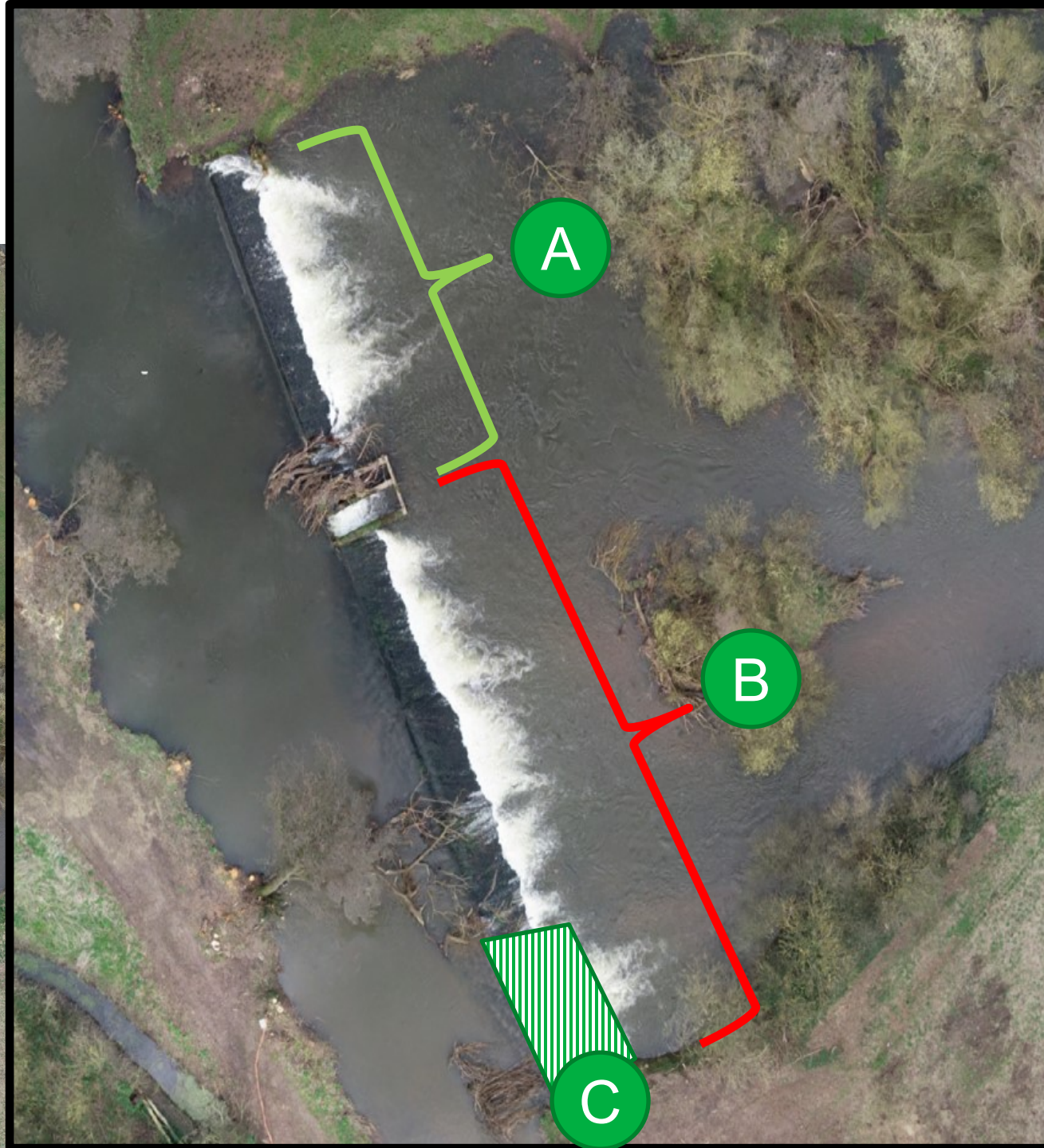
Weir removal to go ahead

MOST OF STRUCTURE WITH ANCIENT ORIGINS TO BE DEMOLISHED TO IMPROVE HABITAT

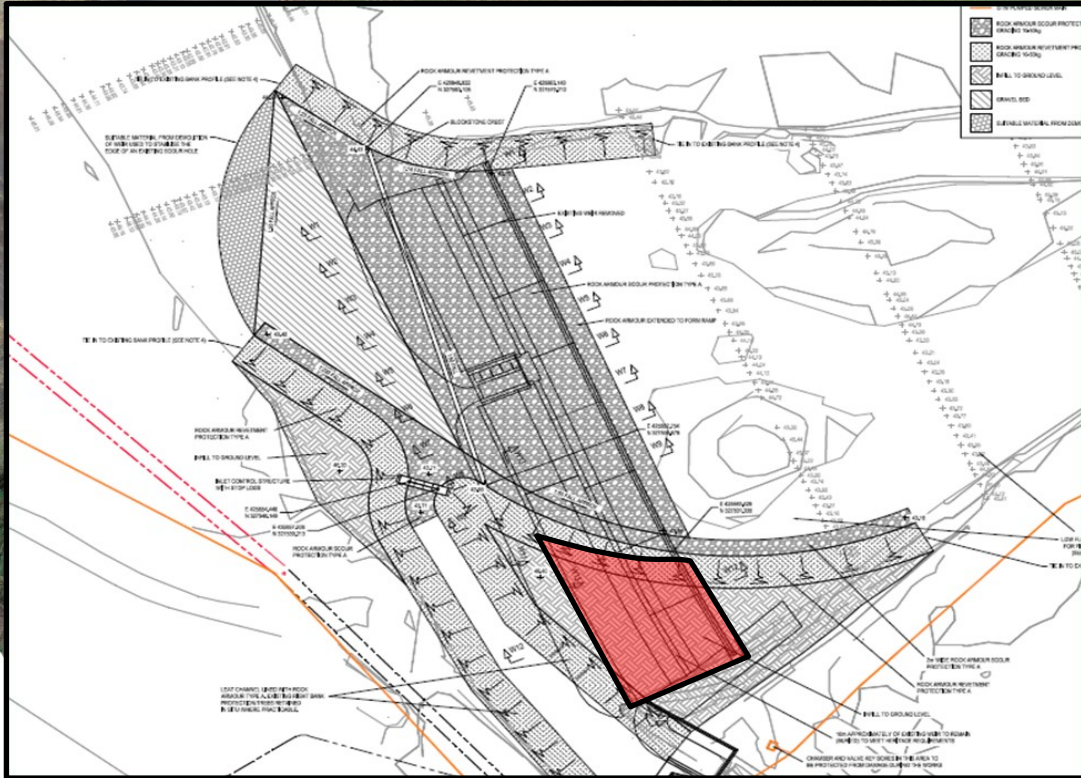
Plans to remove historic weir get thumbs-up despite 'vandalism' fears

It is hoped it will make it easier for fish to swim upstream

Site Plan and Proposal



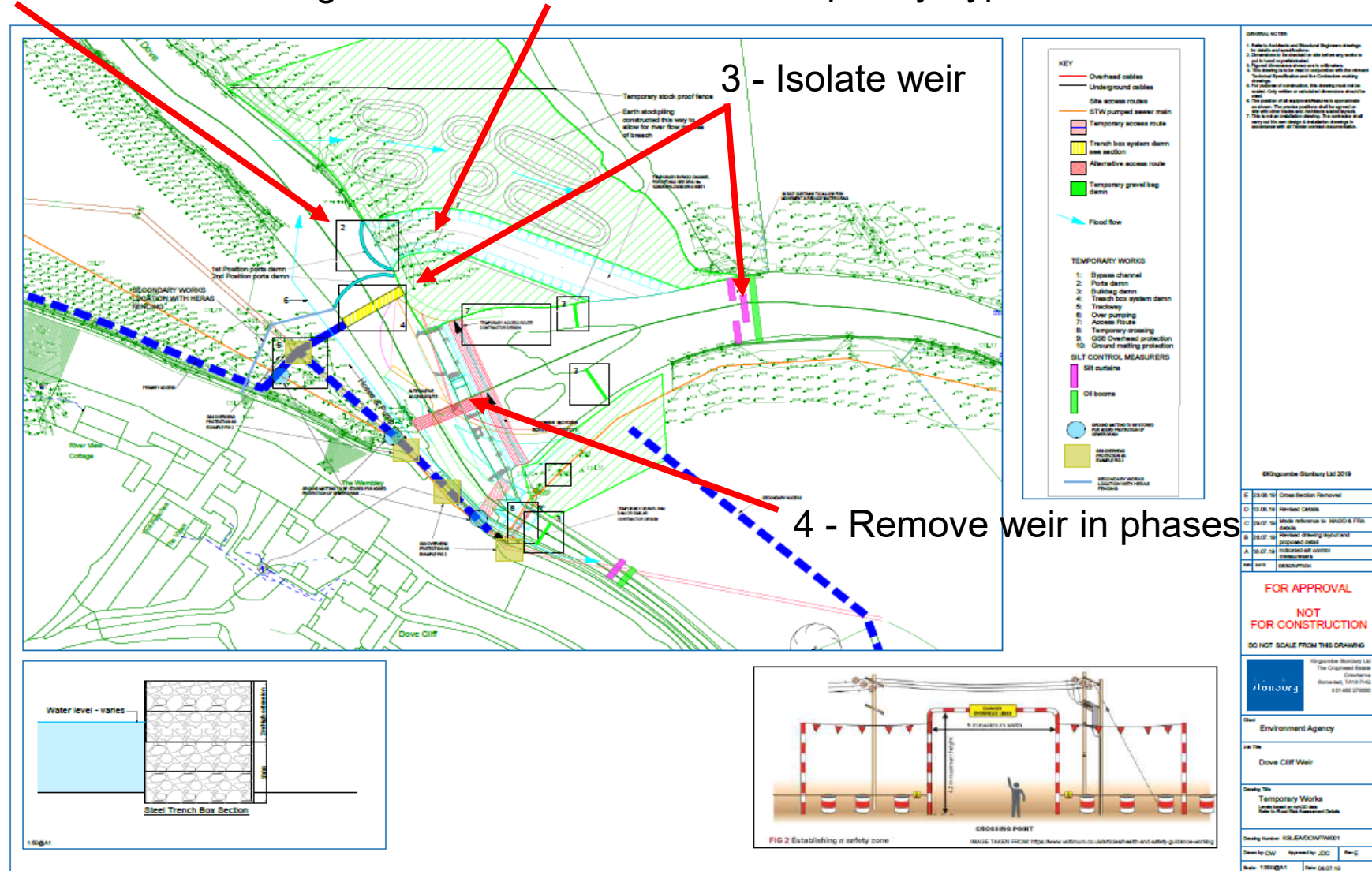
The Design

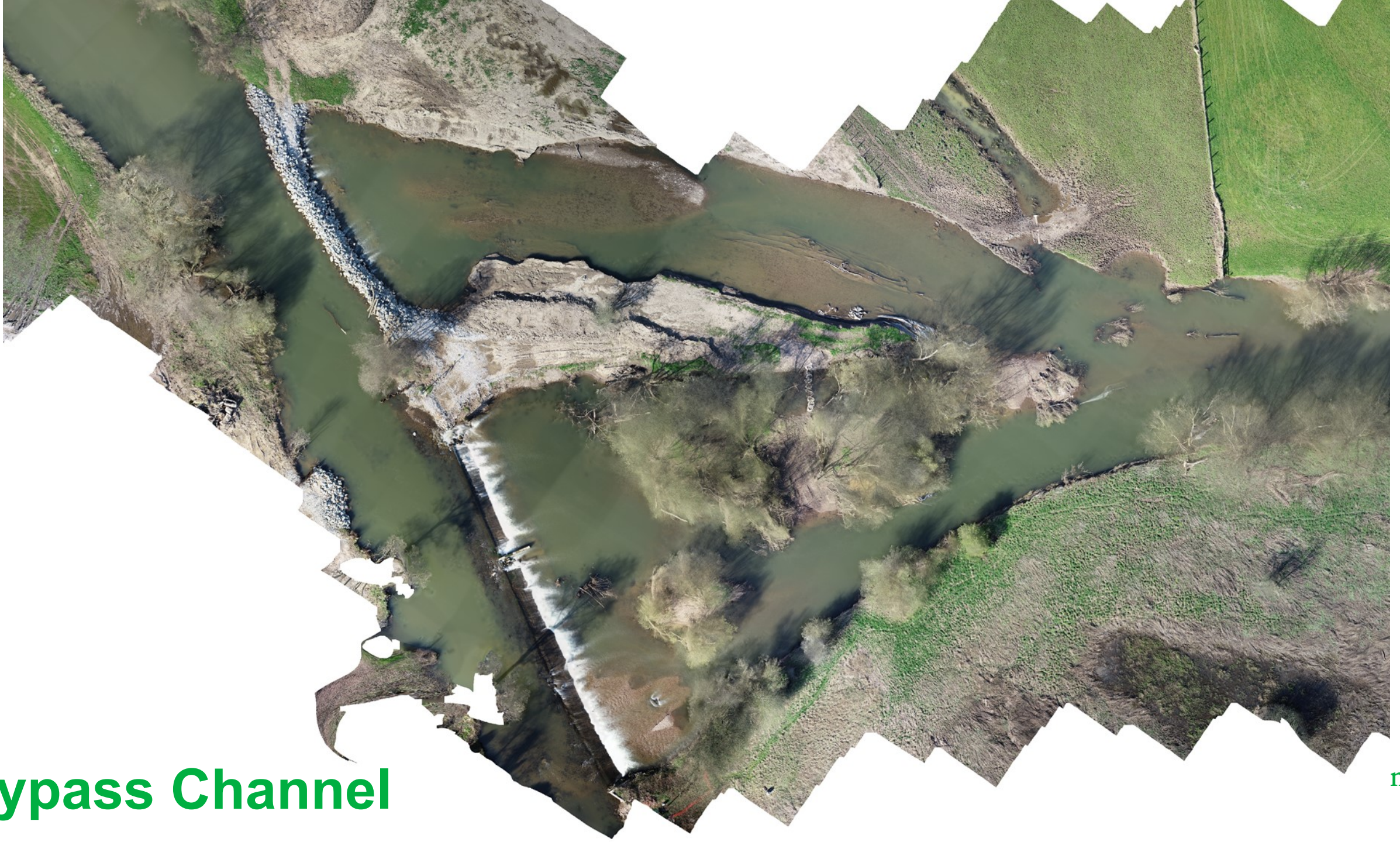


Construction - Temporary and Permanent Works Methodology

5. Record archaeology
6. Protect heritage section of weir
7. Construct new river profile
8. Remove isolation
9. Return river to new alignment
10. Reinstate bypass channel

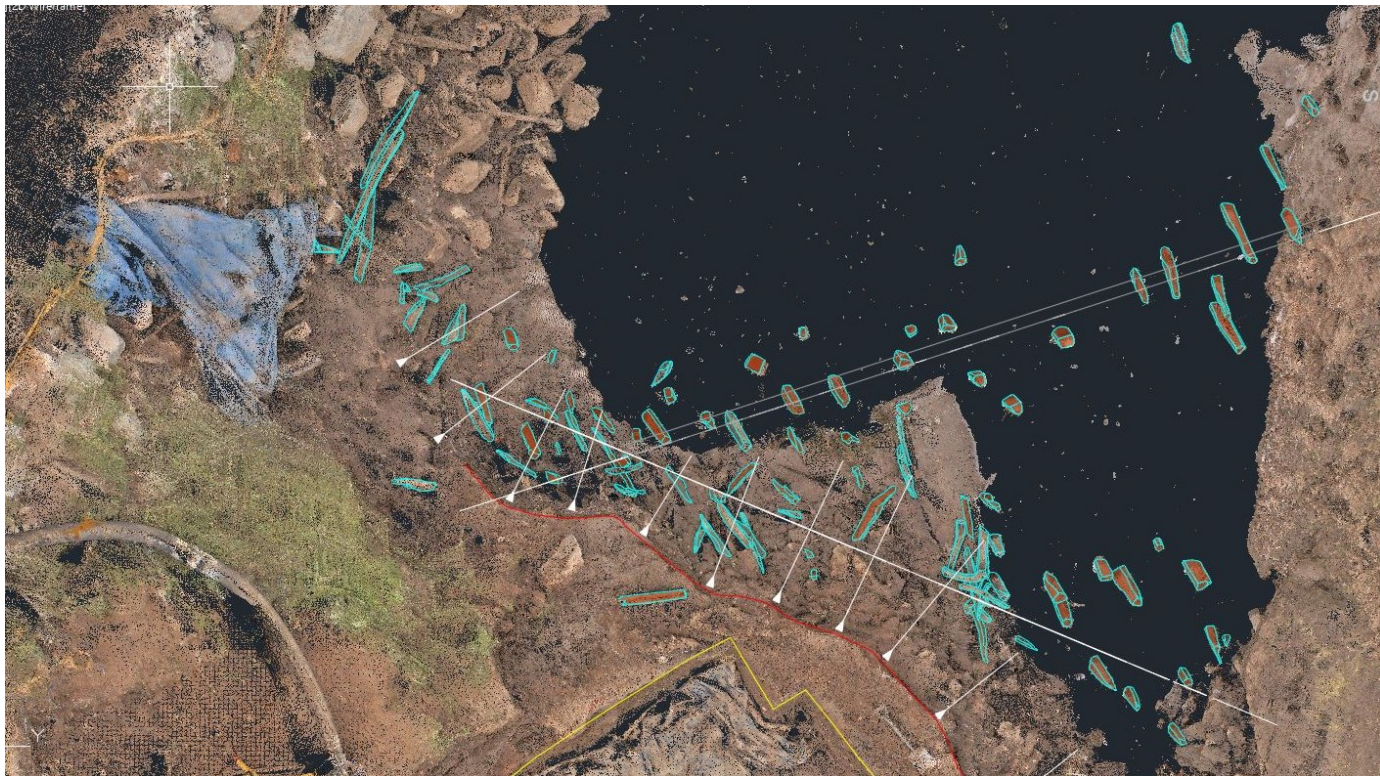
2 - Divert river through channel 1 - Excavate temporary bypass channel





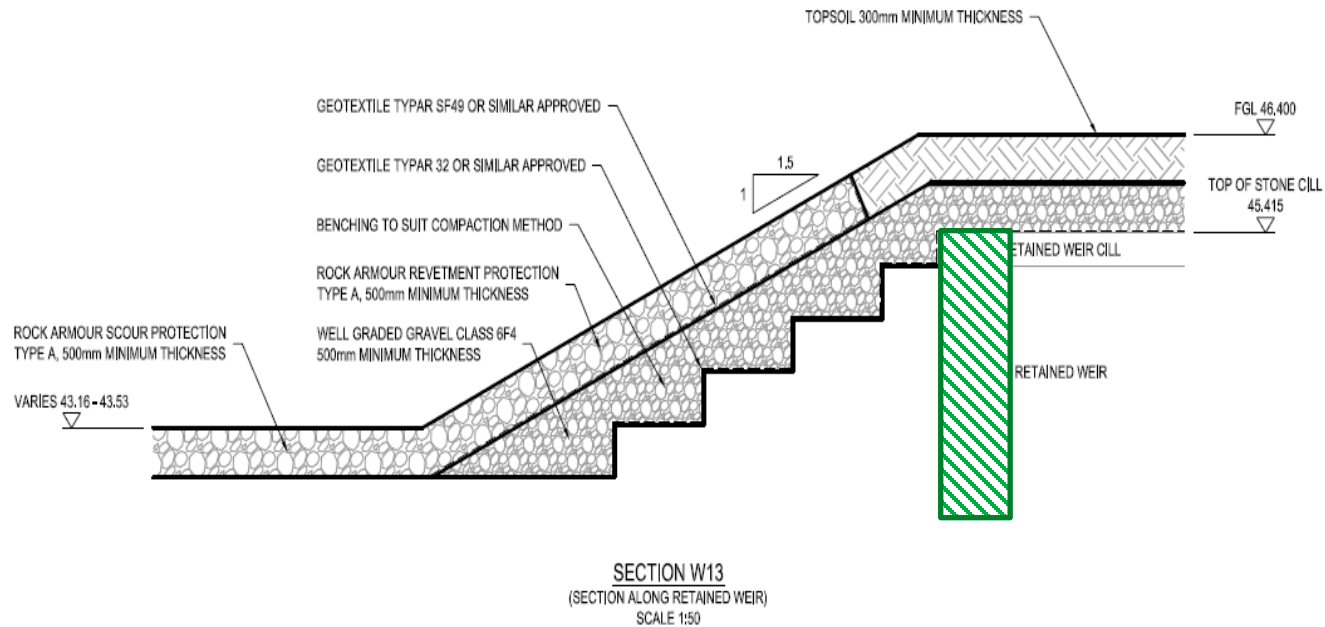
Bypass Channel

Timbers found within temporary bypass channel



Excavation through Dovecliff Weir

Design



“Stepped” section through the weir

Construction



Timbers revealed during archaeological monitoring



Environment
Agency



**Thank you to
Mark Roberts at
CFA Archaeology
and Kristina
Krawiec at York
Archaeology**



River Dove flows freely for first time in centuries

