# Medieval Weir Removal in UK How to deconstruct ancient history

Chris Grzesiok and Paul Herickx







#### **Dovecliff Weir**





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



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### Long Road to Realisation The High's and Low's of



Aug 2021



### 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."

Historic dam being removed to prevent A38 flooding

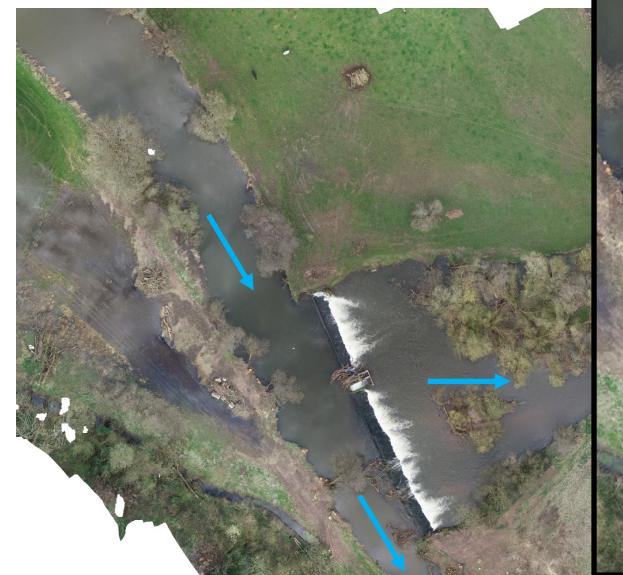
## Weir removal to go ahead

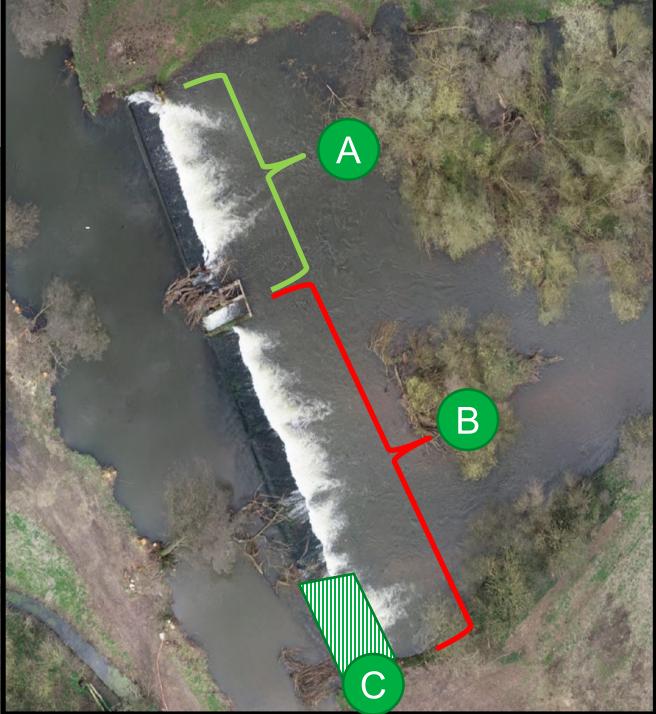
MOST OF STRUCTURE WITH ANCIENT ORIGINS TO BE DEMOLISHED TO IMPROVE HABITAT

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



#### **Site Plan and Proposal**





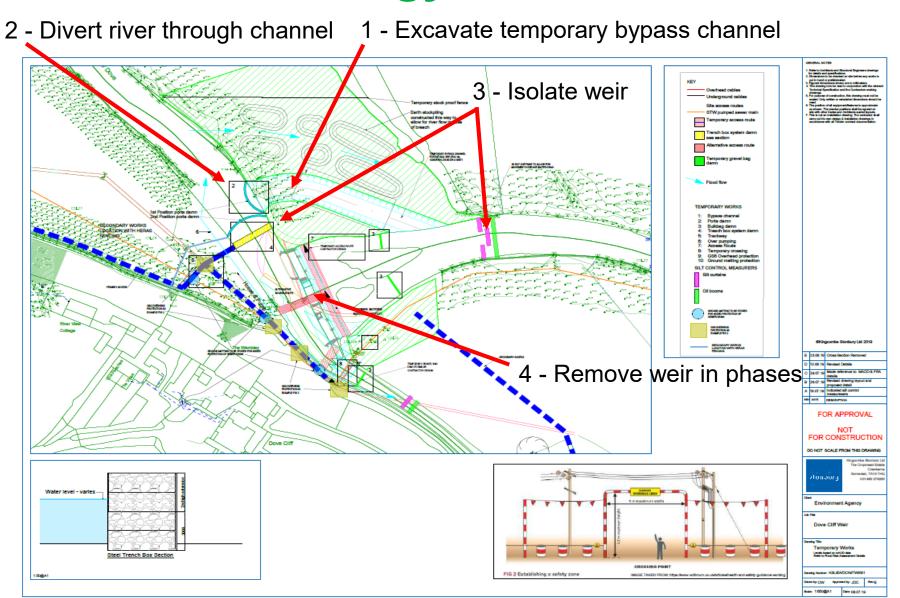
#### **The Design**





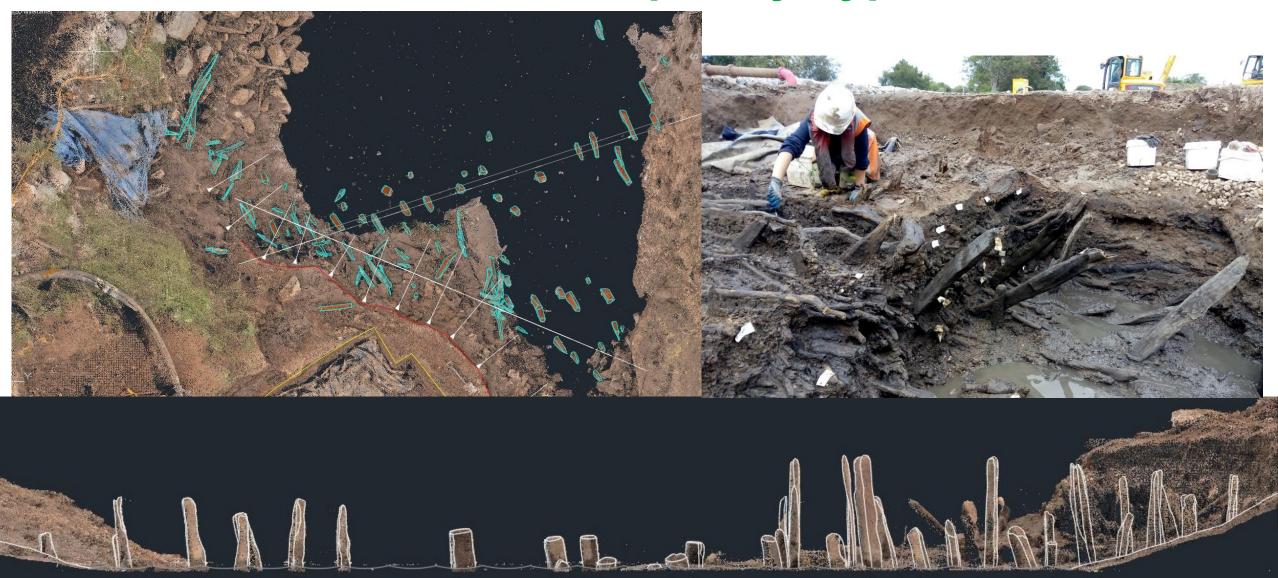
## Construction - Temporary and Permanent Works Methodology

- 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





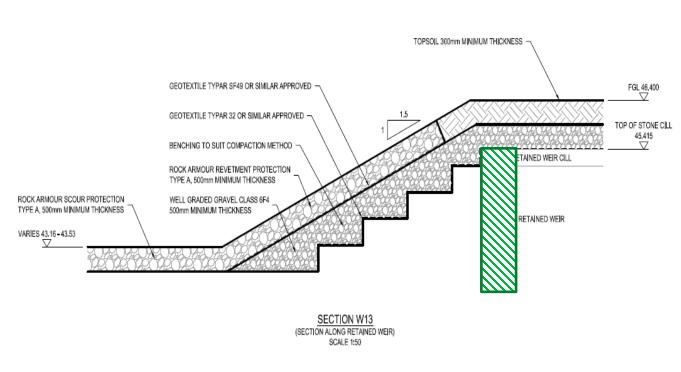
#### Timbers found within temporary bypass channel



#### **Excavation through Dovecliff Weir**

Design

Construction



"Stepped" section through the weir



Timbers revealed during archaeological monitoring

**Environment** 







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





#### River Dove flows freely for first time in centuries











