Staveley Upper Weir: Feasibility, Design and Consents Brief

Brief for feasibility, design development, consenting support and construction-ready design information for the potential removal of Staveley Upper Weir on the River Rother.

Client: Don Catchment Rivers Trust

Project: Staveley Upper Weir Fish Passage and River Restoration Project

Commission: Feasibility, design development, consents evidence and technical design services; preparation and submission of the FRAP itself is excluded and will be undertaken by the landowner.

Location: River Rother, Staveley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire

Procurement basis: Request for quotation for professional design and consenting services

1. Purpose

The consultant shall provide the technical evidence, design development and consents support needed to confirm whether Staveley Upper Weir can be removed and, if viable, progress the scheme from feasibility through to construction-ready design information.

The commission shall support wider work to restore ecological connectivity within the River Rother catchment, improve fish passage, enhance habitat and contribute to regeneration ambitions in the Staveley area.

Following discussions with the relevant landowner, proposals associated with Staveley Lower Weir are not being progressed at this time. Consultants should, however, acknowledge the hydraulic and strategic relationship between the two structures where relevant to assessment of the upper weir.

The weir is located within a modified urban river corridor adjacent to land allocated for regeneration and environmental enhancement.

2. Project Background

DCRT has secured Water Restoration Fund support to develop a scheme to remove Staveley Upper Weir and improve river connectivity, fish passage and habitat on the River Rother. The commission focuses on the Upper Weir only; no works to Staveley Lower Weir are proposed at this stage, although the hydraulic relationship should be recognised where relevant.

- Existing modelling indicates removal of Staveley Upper Weir alone results in no downstream detriment and, in some events, provides hydraulic betterment.
- Further hydrology/model updates may be required to support FRAP/FRA and/or planning.
- The Upper Weir includes (or may include) a potential offtake that could supply a goit/side channel; an assessment is required to confirm whether the offtake is active, its function/rights, and how any change (retention, modification or removal) could affect water levels, flow pathways, and the consenting/planning strategy. This should include consideration of the live 2019 outline planning application for the former ironworks site (CHE/19/00103/OUT), which assumed both weirs remain in place and may require updating/refreshing if the weir is altered or removed.
- Additional survey is required to confirm bed levels, sediment conditions and any regrading assumptions.

3. Design Basis and Recommendations to be Taken Forward

The current working assumption is that removal of Staveley Upper Weir is the preferred solution unless further survey, modelling, environmental evidence or regulator feedback demonstrates that an alternative approach is required.

Existing modelling indicates that removal of Staveley Upper Weir alone results in no downstream detriment and, in some events, provides hydraulic betterment. Further hydrology/model review, survey and design development may be required to generate the evidence and analysis needed to support a Flood Risk Activity Permit, Flood Risk Assessment and/or planning submissions. The consultant is not required to prepare or submit the FRAP itself; this will be prepared and submitted by the landowner.

Feature	Design basis	Consultant requirement
Staveley Upper Weir	Weir removal is the preferred solution unless evidence indicates otherwise.	Confirm feasibility and develop outline and detailed designs, including channel regrading, sediment management, erosion control, access, temporary works, reinstatement and construction methodology.
Staveley Lower Weir	No works are proposed at this stage.	Acknowledge the hydraulic and strategic relationship where relevant, including any implications for future Lower Weir or development-linked works.
Potential offtake / goit or side channel	The Upper Weir may include an offtake that could supply a goit or side channel.	Confirm whether the offtake is active, its function/rights, and how retention, modification or removal could affect water levels, flow pathways and consenting/planning strategy.
Former ironworks planning context	The live 2019 outline planning application for the former ironworks site assumed both weirs remain in place.	Consider whether alteration or removal of the Upper Weir has implications for the existing planning assumptions and any required updates or supporting information.

4. Design Objectives

- Restore river connectivity and improve fish passage through the Staveley Upper Weir reach.
- Remove or reduce the artificial barrier while protecting flood risk, geomorphology, ecology, heritage, infrastructure and adjacent land interests.
- Confirm technical, environmental and hydraulic feasibility before committing to construction.
- Develop proportionate, naturalised and low-maintenance design solutions wherever practicable.
- Produce coordinated drawings, specifications, method requirements, risk information and supporting material suitable for permits, planning and construction procurement.
- Identify constraints, risks, costs, dependencies and approvals needed for delivery within the required funding timescale.

5. Scope of Technical Design

- Hold a project inception meeting with DCRT and confirm methodology, programme, assumptions and information gaps.
- Review existing hydraulic modelling, planning information, surveys, utilities, heritage information and stakeholder background material.
- Progress the preferred solution of weir removal unless further evidence or regulator feedback indicates otherwise.
- Develop outline design information, including general arrangement, design philosophy, outline construction methodology, mitigation principles, programme and cost estimate.
- Develop detailed design information, including construction drawings, specifications, cost plan or bill of quantities as appropriate, design risk assessment and CDM information, subject to confirmation that the preferred removal option remains viable.
- Prepare an options appraisal or decision record suitable for agreement with DCRT and stakeholders where required.

6. Surveys, Assessments and Consents

The consultant shall obtain or commission all surveys, assessments and technical inputs necessary to complete the commission and support design, consenting and construction procurement.

- **Survey:** topographical survey tied to Ordnance Datum, bathymetric survey of the impounded reach, surveyed channel cross-sections, long profile, structure surveys, utility searches, condition appraisal and any additional surveys needed.
- **Hydraulic and flood risk:** review existing 2D model information and update where necessary to provide the surveys, modelling, analysis and technical evidence required to support FRAP, FRA and/or planning submissions. Preparation and submission of the FRAP itself is excluded from the consultant's scope and will be undertaken by the landowner.
- **Geomorphology and sediment:** confirm bed levels, sediment conditions, regrading assumptions, erosion risk, scour risk, channel response and monitoring or mitigation requirements.
- **Access and constructability:** identify site access constraints and propose access, compound, temporary works and safe working arrangements, including the likely northern access route and potential impacts on trees and habitats.
- **Ecology and biodiversity:** identify survey requirements, mitigation, enhancement, seasonal constraints, protected species risks and biodiversity net gain requirements.
- **Heritage and design:** provide proportionate advice on any heritage/design considerations associated with removing or retaining structural remnants.

- **Consents and permitting:** provide Environment Agency engagement support and prepare technical information, survey outputs and analysis to enable the landowner to prepare and submit the Flood Risk Activity Permit, with planning permission support where required and supporting information for any other relevant approvals.
- **Environment Agency baseline engagement:** advise whether early Environment Agency engagement is required on the hydraulic baseline for Upper Weir removal and any implications for future Lower Weir or development-linked works.

7. Consultee and Technical Requirements to be Addressed

Detailed pre-application correspondence and supporting technical information will be provided separately. For tender pricing and approach, consultants shall allow for the following key implications.

- Upper Weir removal is likely to be supported in principle where the scheme demonstrates no adverse flood risk and protects ecological features.
- Access arrangements must be identified and impacts on trees, habitats and safe working must be considered.
- Design, heritage, landscape, arboricultural, flood risk, river impact and biodiversity information should be proportionate to the scheme.
- Increased velocities and erosion/scour risk must be assessed and addressed through design, construction methodology, monitoring and mitigation as required.
- Model and hydrology review may be required to support Environment Agency acceptance for FRA/FRAP purposes.

8. Environmental and Construction Constraints

The consultant shall address key environmental and construction risks including protected species, invasive species, vegetation clearance, sediment mobilisation, water quality, made ground, waste, bank instability, access, temporary works, dewatering, pollution prevention, biosecurity, reinstatement and erosion management.

9. Deliverables

Key deliverables, subject to instructed scope, are expected to include:

- Inception note, programme and information gap log.
- Survey outputs in CAD and PDF, including topographical survey, bathymetry and channel survey as required.
- Feasibility and options appraisal report or decision record.
- Hydraulic, geomorphology, sediment, erosion and flood risk technical notes or assessments as required.
- Outline design pack and cost estimate.

- Detailed design pack suitable for construction procurement, subject to confirmation that the preferred removal option remains viable.
- Construction methodology, sequencing, temporary works assumptions, environmental protection measures and reinstatement requirements.
- Designer's risk register and CDM residual risk information.
- Consents support pack including the surveys, technical analysis and supporting information required to enable the landowner to prepare and submit the FRAP, together with planning supporting information and proportionate ecology, access, arboricultural, heritage, landscape, flood risk, river impact and biodiversity material as required.
- Maintenance, monitoring and post-construction inspection recommendations.
- Updated programme and cost estimate for procurement, permitting, mobilisation, construction and monitoring.

10. Design Standards and Approach

The design shall follow current good practice for river restoration, fish passage, weir removal, flood risk, geomorphology, ecology, heritage, CDM duties and environmental permitting. The consultant shall produce coordinated information suitable for statutory approvals, tendering and construction procurement.

11. Key Decisions to Resolve Before Construction

- Whether Staveley Upper Weir can be fully removed without unacceptable flood risk, geomorphological, ecological, heritage, access or infrastructure impacts.
- The extent of bed regrading, sediment management and erosion protection required.
- Whether any offtake, goit or side-channel function must be retained, modified or removed.
- The final access, compound, temporary works and safe working arrangements.
- The final consent route, including the technical surveys, analysis and supporting information needed for the landowner's FRAP submission, planning and supporting surveys or assessments.
- Whether early Environment Agency engagement is needed on the hydraulic baseline and future Lower Weir/development-linked implications.

12. Information to be Provided to Designers

The following information will be made available to the appointed designer to support the commission:

- Arup hydraulic modelling report for Staveley Upper and Lower Weirs.
- Pre-application planning advice for Staveley Upper Weir removal.
- Site location plan and available site photographs.

- Initial utilities information.
- 2019 outline planning information for the former ironworks site, where available.
- Existing surveys and site information where available.
- Stakeholder background information and existing site knowledge from DCRT and partners.
- Relevant landowner, access, ecology, heritage and consenting correspondence where available.

13. Tender Requirements and Procurement Basis

Tenderers are invited to deliver the professional design and consultancy services described in this brief. The appointment covers surveys, assessments, consent support evidence, drawings, specifications, risk information, programme and cost information needed for later procurement and construction. The consultant shall undertake the surveys, modelling and analysis required to support a FRAP, but preparation and submission of the FRAP itself is excluded and will be undertaken by the landowner. Construction delivery is also excluded from this appointment.

Tenderers shall confirm they understand the project context, constraints, deliverables, consent requirements and risks. Any exclusions, assumptions, qualifications or departures from this brief must be clearly stated.

14. Tender Submission Returns

Tenderers shall provide a complete submission covering the items below.

Return item	**Requirement**
Tender submission letter	Confirm acceptance of the brief, validity period, lead organisation, key contact and any qualifications or exclusions.
Method statement	Describe the proposed approach to feasibility, design development, surveys, consenting, regulator engagement, risk management, buildability and production of tender/construction information.
Programme	Provide a task-by-task programme showing inception, surveys, design milestones, review points, consent submissions, final issue dates and key client decisions. Tenderers shall indicate the quickest date by which the project could realistically be completed and provide a Gantt chart or similar programme showing key tasks, deliverables, dependencies and decision points.

Team structure and CVs	Identify the project director, project manager, lead designer, specialists and subconsultants, including relevant experience and responsibilities.
Relevant experience	Provide examples of comparable fish passage, weir removal, river restoration, flood risk, permitting and multi-disciplinary design commissions.
Fee proposal	Provide a fixed fee breakdown by task, discipline and deliverable, identifying expenses, subconsultant costs, optional items, provisional sums, exclusions and day rates for additional services.
Assumptions and risks	Set out key assumptions, dependencies, information requirements, client inputs, programme risks, proposed mitigation measures and justification for any additional surveys or visits.
Insurances and compliance	Confirm professional indemnity, public liability and employer's liability insurance levels, health and safety arrangements, CDM compliance and quality assurance procedures. Minimum insurance levels are expected to be £5 million professional indemnity, £10 million public liability and £10 million employer's liability, unless otherwise agreed with DCRT.

15. Pricing Requirements

The tender price shall be a fixed lump sum for the commission, with a breakdown by discipline, task and deliverable. Tenderers shall identify provisional sums, optional services, exclusions, disbursements, survey allowances, third-party costs and day rates for additional services.

Fees shall include an inception meeting, design reviews, regulator discussions, specialist coordination, preparation of deliverables and reasonable responses to client comments. Tenderers shall state whether site visits are required based on the current information and justify any additional survey or visit requirements. VAT shall be stated separately where applicable.

Tenderers shall indicate the quickest date by which the project could realistically be completed and explain any implications for scope, cost, consents or delivery. This shall be supported by a Gantt chart or similar programme showing key tasks, deliverables, dependencies, review points and decision points. Appointment will be made subject to funding, partner approval and agreement of scope.

16. Tender Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated on a 60% cost / 40% quality basis. Quality assessment will consider technical understanding and approach, relevant experience and team capability, deliverability within programme, risk management and confidence in achieving the required outputs.

DCRT may seek clarification on submitted proposals and discuss delivery structure or scope refinement with preferred consultants before appointment.

17. Tender Programme and Communications

The tender programme will be confirmed before issue. Tenderers shall submit clarification questions by the stated deadline. Material clarifications will be shared with all tenderers where appropriate. Submission validity will be confirmed in the request for quotation.

Milestone	**Date / requirement**
Tender issue	30.07.26
Clarification deadline	Noon on 13.08.26
Tender return deadline	9am 31.08.26
Appointment target	Within two weeks of return deadline
Earliest achievable project completion date	Tenderers to indicate, supported by a Gantt chart or similar deliverables programme

Queries and submission

Please submit proposals electronically and direct any queries to:

Matt Duffy
Fishery Habitat Officer, Don Catchment Rivers Trust
matt.duffy@dcrt.org.uk
07825 911973