

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Summary

To support the ITT:

Construction Phase

Fish Passage Improvements

Bridgetown Weir, River Exe

Document Date: 3rd June 2021



**Strategic
Exe Weirs**



This document provides a summary of the preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) report produced by Colmer Ecology in April 2020, commissioned by Westcountry Rivers Trust, to support the Invitation To Tender for construction phase of fish passage improvements at Bridgetown Weir.

All tenders should consider the following ecological advice from the PEA. Further, root protection areas have been provided in Annex 1 for consideration of access and operations.

PEA Summary:

1. **No further phase 2 surveys required** for proposed works within the site Bridgetown Weir.
2. Use of a suitably qualified and experience contractor to assure continued assessment of risk to local wildlife.
3. Cover dug trenches or provide mammal ladders, and cover piping to protect badgers.
4. External lighting kept to minimum (LED <2,700 Kelvin), upward light ratio 0%, security lighting on short timers.
5. Should tree of 'moderate' risk for bat roosts require removal, aerial inspection required with further advice followed pertaining to required surveys and licencing.
6. Should removal of breeding bird habitat be required to facilitate construction between 1st March - 31st August inclusive, suitably qualified inspection required. If breeding birds identified, exclusion zone would be required and no clearance to take place until breeding has ceased.
7. Pre-construction otter and water vole presence/absence by suitably qualified ecologist. If found, construction must cease and suitable mitigation be employed before continuation.
8. Work in accordance with EA pollution prevention guidance. No fuel or potential pollutants to be stored near to water, and spill kits on site. Sediment control should be employed where appropriate, and contractors made aware of potential for pollution incidents incl. toolbox talks.
9. Contractors to be informed of invasive species risks and supplied with identification and prevention guidance. This may include 'no go' areas.
10. Tree root protection zones where appropriate must be adhered to, with appropriate signage and monitoring. Pruning/reductions to facilitate works to adhere to good silviculture practice.
11. Contact Natural England regarding access over Entry/Higher Level Stewardship land on LHB if access over this land is required for construction purposes.

Overall, the ecological impact of the proposed works is considered to be highly positive, are likely to contribute to improved WFD ecological status for Fish, and thus WFD elemental improvement.

Annex 1 - Root Protection Areas for consideration.

