

Trent Gateway - Restoring the River Trent

The **Trent Gateway** project aims to restore the River Trent to a thriving green corridor, focussing on enabling fish passage to over 400km of river. By working in partnership, the project will also deliver a range of recreational and economic benefits by linking the people to the social history of the area and the role the Trent has played in shaping the communities along its route.

Background

We are working to make major improvements to the River Trent between Cromwell near Newark and Sawley, near Long Eaton. **Trent Gateway** aims to enable fish passage on some of the largest weirs in the UK.

There are eight remaining barriers to fish migration along the lower River Trent. The Canal & River Trust share our ambition for fish passage and are looking at hydroelectric power options that will include fish passes on the five structures they own.



The project will open up spawning grounds in the Derwent, Soar and Dove. All species fish passage will deliver healthy fish populations in these iconic rivers and benefit key species such as Atlantic Salmon, lamprey and eels. Our plans for the Trent will open up **410km** of main river plus more smaller tributaries for all species. This has the potential to improve up to **244** upstream waterbodies.



Work has already started to design a fish pass at the Environment Agency owned Holme Sluices at Colwick, Nottingham. It is the largest barrier to fish migration on the Trent and taking full responsibility for our own assets is key when persuading others to enable fish passage on their weirs. The fish pass at Holme Sluices alone will open up 60km of river.

In collaboration with Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust we want to create an education and centre at Colwick Country Park that will become a destination for visitors to hear about the River Trent and its amazing history.



We are also developing many 'spin off' projects about the historical character of the Trent and influences on fish and communities. We plan to explore the heritage and improve connectivity for people as well as the wildlife along the river.



Wider Benefits

The Trent is one of the premier coarse fishing rivers in the UK, with anglers travelling from all over the UK. We aim to further improve fish populations, increase day and holiday visits to this part of the Midlands and help boost the local economy. The Trent Championships, a fishing match held through the mid-20th Century, had to be limited to 2,000 anglers, now it attracts around 100. We hope to rebuild angling and other activity along the river.

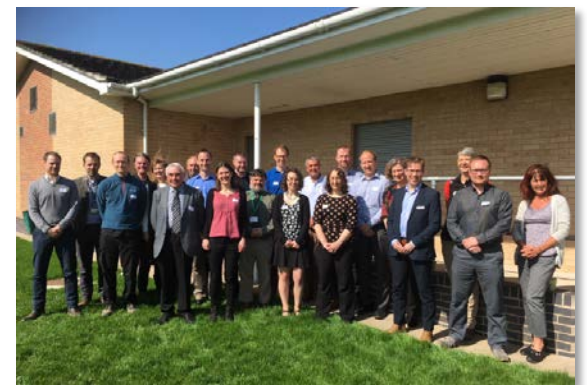


Restoring salmon to the Trent, once one of the best salmon fisheries in England, will also drive tourism and see 'live view' monitoring of their progress upstream and into the Peak District. We will look to involve schools, local communities and citizen science initiatives.

Salmon are declining in England and Wales, 2015 records show a 44% decline in catches. By opening up passage we will give every opportunity for Salmon stocks to improve throughout the Trent catchment.

Partnership

Our vision for **Trent Gateway** can only be achieved through working with others. We have established a Partnership Steering Group as part of the Lower Trent & Erewash Catchment Partnership to help drive the project forward. We are also forming theme groups to focus on specific topics areas such as heritage, ecology, connections and education.



Costs and Funding

The costs associated with river restoration on this scale and fish passes on large weirs can be significant. We recognise that to be able to secure funding for the **Trent Gateway** project will be a challenge. The Environment Agency has invested substantial amounts in the feasibility and design works for the Holme Sluices fish pass and are working to secure the costs to build, estimated to be c. £5million.

Trent Gateway is a long-term ambition and the partnership will work together in a strategic approach to look for ways the river can be restored for both wildlife and people. By taking an approach of using the River Trent as a catalyst for regeneration and improving health we hope we can attract investment from a wide variety of funders and sectors who have an interest in the River Trent and what it can provide.

We are looking at many funding options to help contribute to the wider benefits and will continue to work in partnership with many organisations to help shape our plans and secure future investment to restore the River Trent to a thriving river corridor for fish, wildlife and people.

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