# Hampshire Avon Fish Counter

## Knapp Mill, August - October 2026



***Figure 1 –*** *A salmon showing off his breeding colours through the murky waters of the fish pass. 23/10/26*

### Summary

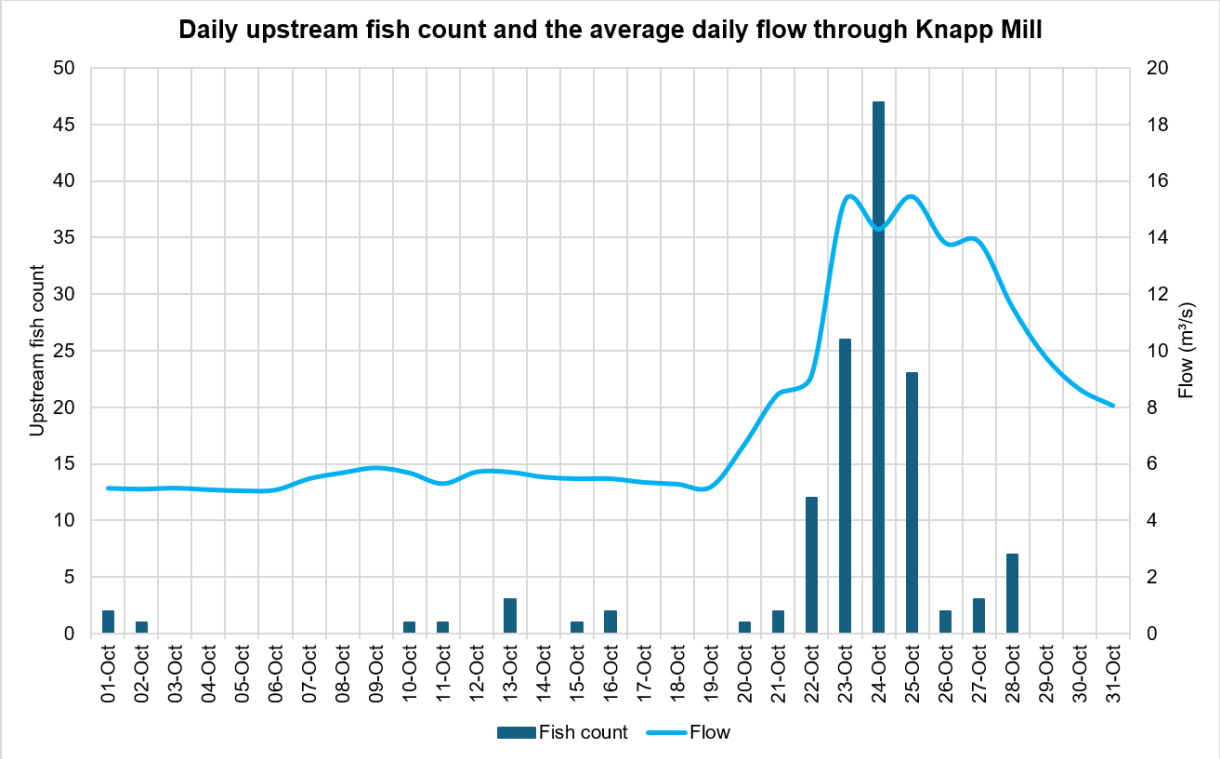
The counters at Knapp Mill operated without fault during October. Unfortunately the storms towards the end of the month tripped a fuse that supports the underwater cameras at the weir. Therefore, there are no images available for the busy movement of fish from the afternoon of the 24th to the morning of the 26th October here. At the Turbine House, a large amount of debris blocked the fish counter across this weekend too, greatly reducing the flow through this passage.

Those storms did provide enough flow to open two of the larger hatches at the weir on 21st October, the first time any of these have opened since July. After the Turbine House had recorded the majority of movement in August and September, 80% of fish in October used the route up the weir.

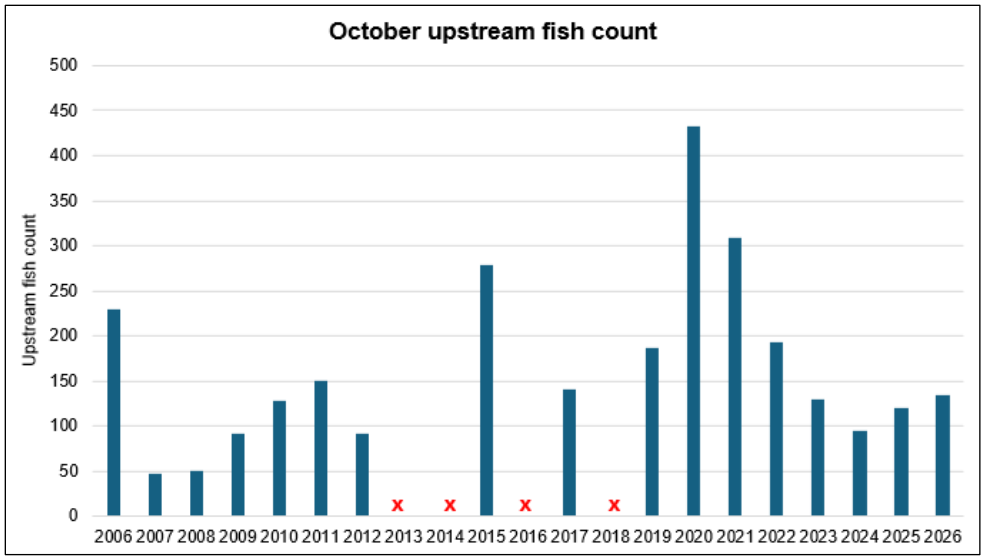
134 fish were recorded moving upstream through the counters in October, 80% of the long-term average for this month. 80% of these fish moved within a four-day period (22-25 October) during/following storms Austen and Boelo. In addition, six fish were recorded moving downstream.

Given the camera issues and the number of fish moving while the water was particularly turbid, only 36% were identified to species level. Of these, 33 were salmon and 15 sea trout.

## October Data




***Graph 1 -*** *2026 upstream fish count (salmon & sea trout combined) each day in October alongside the flow through Knapp Mill for the same period.*




***Graph 2 –*** *A comparison of the total upstream fish count for October across each year (no valid data was available for 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018).*

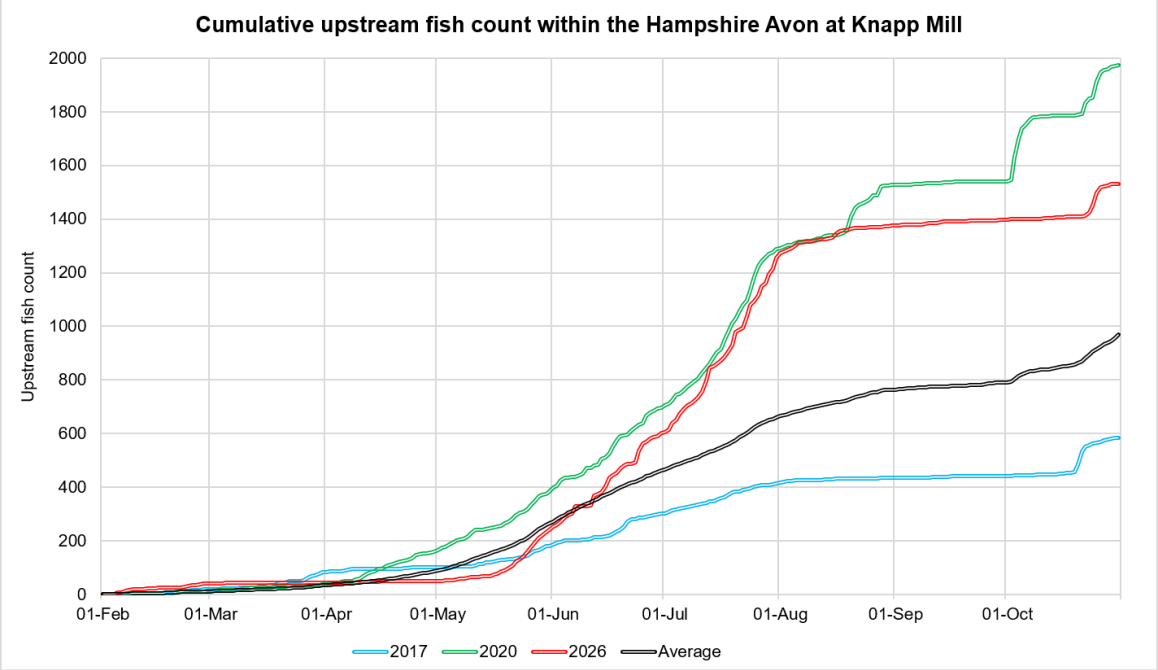
The missing data for 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018 is due to issues with the fish counters during these years that resulted in erroneously low counts being recorded. Therefore, data from these years is not included in any of the long-term averages for fish counts.

As usual with autumn, fish movement is closely tied to heavy rainfall events and spikes in flow through the river. The larger hatches 17 & 18 saw the majority of movement at the weir each day once the rain had arrived. There was a slightly odd pattern at the other channels along the weir, as seen in table 1. Channels 11 & 12 and the fish pass were open throughout this period, but saw an alternating trend of numbers during the month. This could be a coincidence, but the two days that saw movement through the fish pass were the same days as the peak flow through the weir.

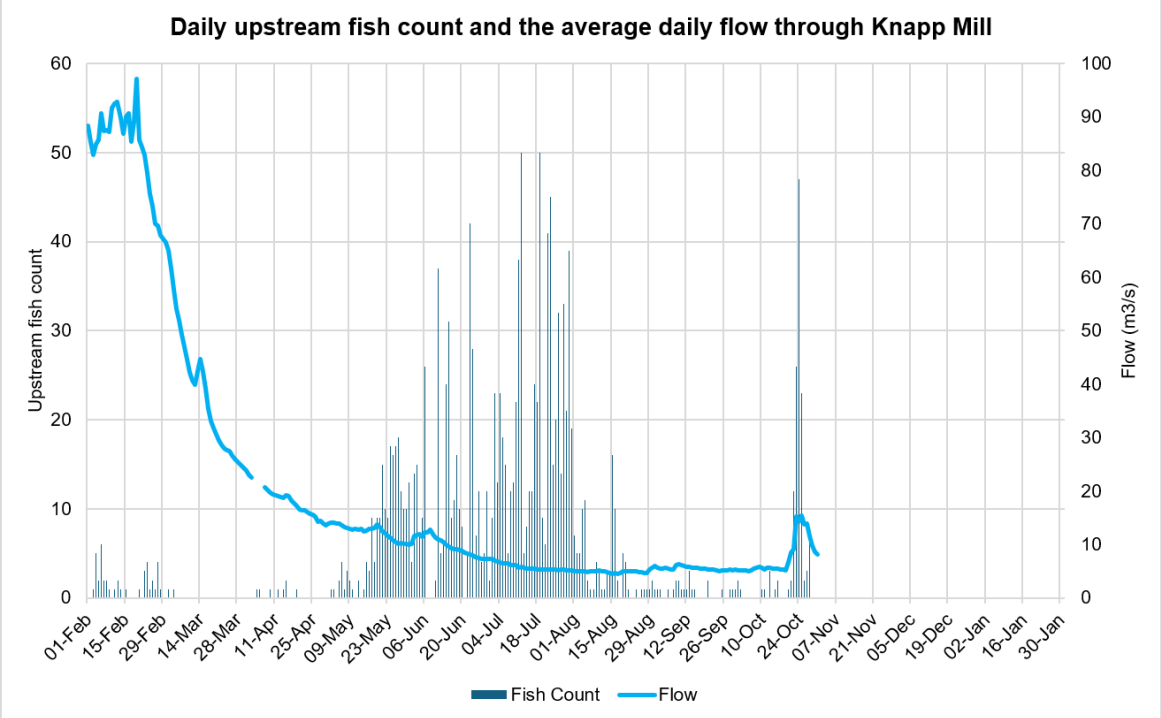
| | Channels 11&12 | Fish Pass |
|---|---|---|
| 15-22 Oct | 4 | 0 |
| 23 Oct | 0 | 8 |
| 24 Oct | 11 | 0 |
| 25 Oct | 0 | 3 |
| 26-28 Oct | 5 | 0 |

***Table 1 –*** *The route used by fish moving upstream through the weir during October, excluding channels 17 & 18.*

## Q3 Data




***Graph 3 -*** *A comparison of the long-term average since 2006 (excluding 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018) with the current year's cumulative fish count (2026), as well as the highest previously recorded annual count (2020) and lowest (2017).*

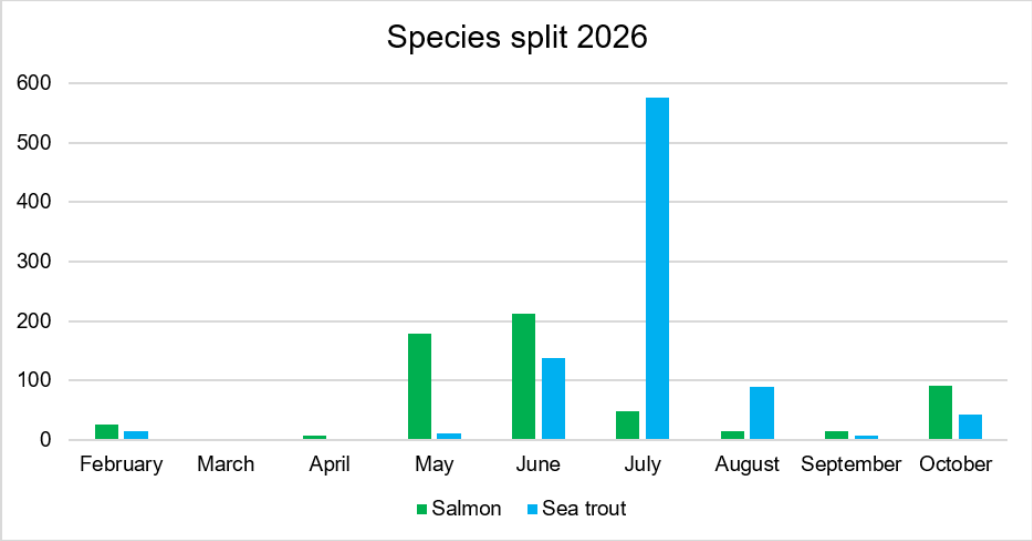



***Graph 4 -*** *Upstream fish count (salmon & sea trout combined) each day in 2026 alongside the flow through Knapp Mill for the same period.*

## Species Split

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Salmon** | 465 | 363 | 285 | 594 |
| **Sea trout** | 246 | 854 | 613 | 880 |

***Table 2 –*** *A comparison of salmon and sea trout counts (both identified on camera **and estimated** for unidentified fish) as of 31st October since 2023.*

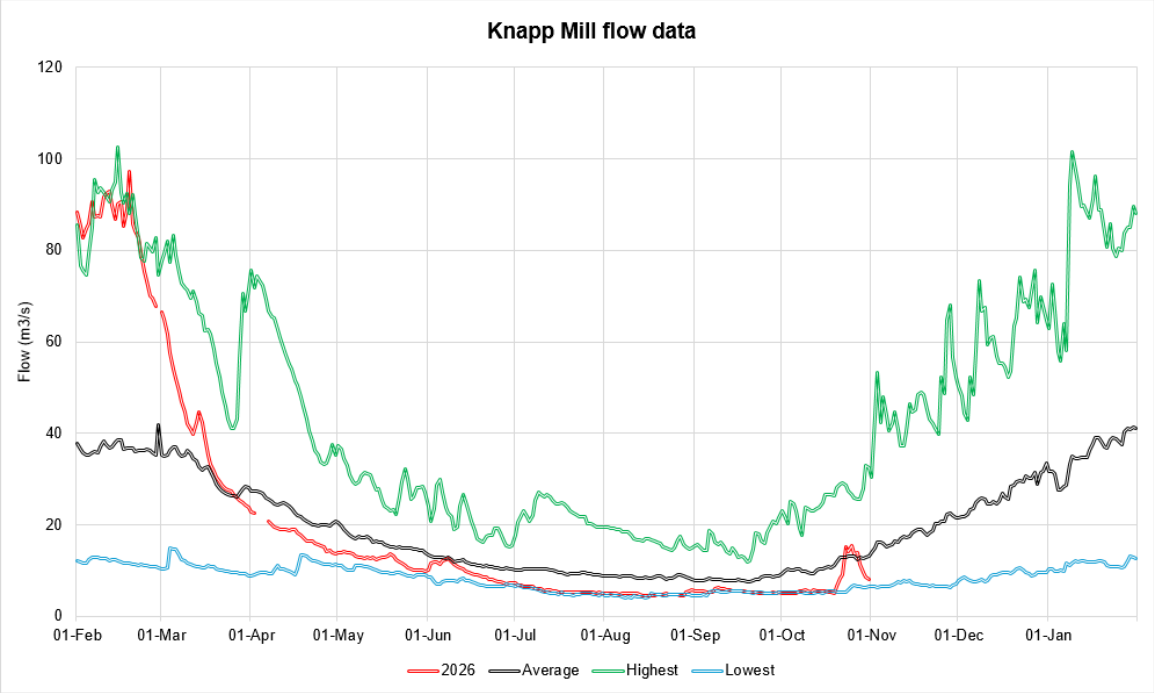



***Graph 5 –*** *A comparison of salmon and sea trout (both identified on camera **and estimated** for unidentified fish) for each month during 2026.*

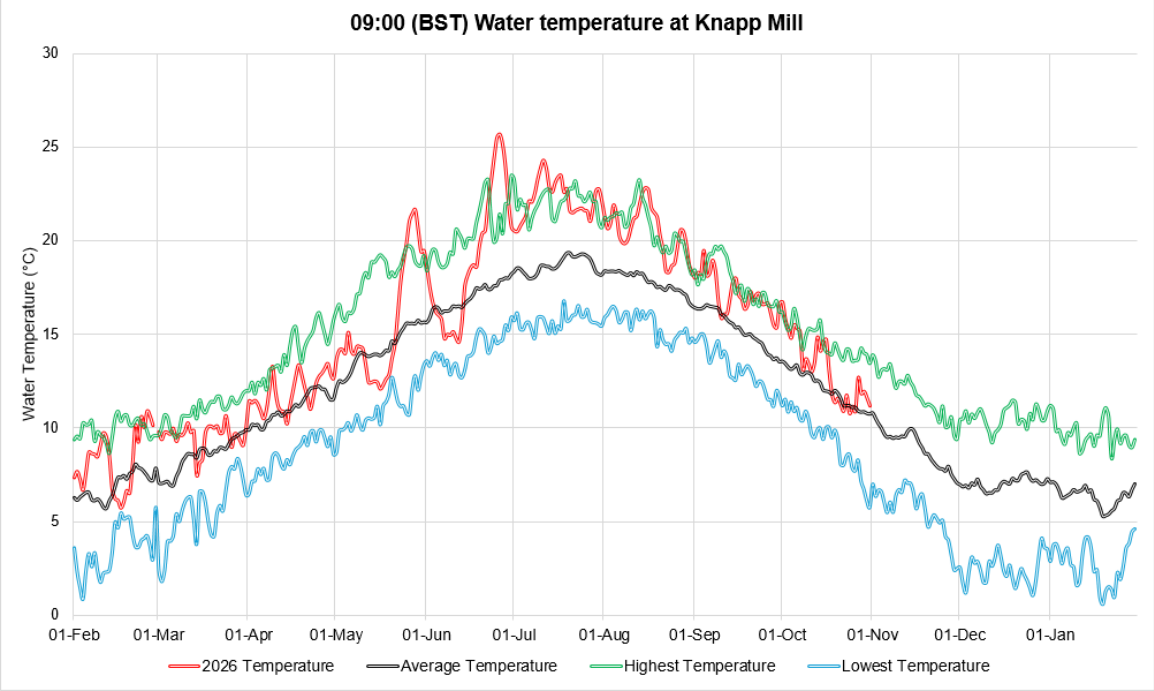
## Flow and Temperature

As graph 6 shows, the storms at the end of October were only enough to briefly raise the flow in the Avon to the long-term average before it swiftly receded towards the lowest recorded figures again. Drought conditions remain in place for southern England, with groundwater levels at historic lows.

24 days in October saw an above average water temperature at Knapp Mill, with two days setting new daily record highs.




***Graph 6 -*** *A comparison of the long-term average flow data, as well as highest and lowest mean daily flow, for the period of 01/02/2006 – 31/01/2026, with the current year's flow data.*




***Graph 7 -*** *A comparison of the long-term average 09:00 water temperature data, as well as highest and lowest daily 09:00 water temperature (all from 01/02/2006 to 31/01/2026), with the current year's water temperature data.*

## Gallery



***Figure 2 –*** *Another colourful salmon, spotted here on channel 11. Once the storms arrived and the turbidity increased, close up shots were the only images to provide good detail. 24/10/26*



***Figure 3 –*** *A salmon moving up channel 18 during storm Boelo. 24/10/26.*

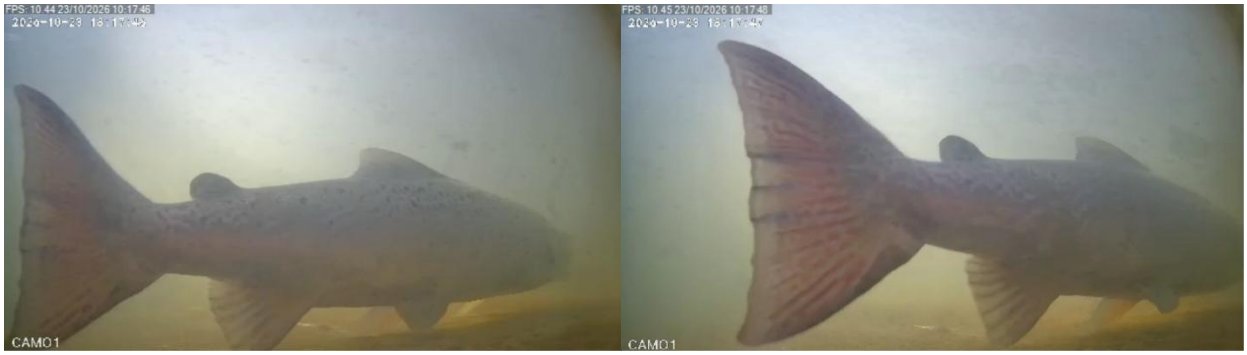



***Figure 4 –*** *A ~65 cm salmon pausing at the upstream end of the fish pass. 23/10/26*




***Figure 5 –*** *The same salmon as above, viewed from the opposite side. Unlike the camera used for figure 4 which is sheltered beneath the eel pass, this camera sits in the flow and the images tend to be slightly less detailed as a result of the higher water velocity. 23/10/26*




***Figure 6 –*** *A salmon emerging from the gloom at the lower end of the fish pass. 23/10/26.*




***Figure 7 –*** *The same male salmon as in figure 1, but with a view that better highlights the prominent kype. 23/10/26.*



***Figure 8 –*** *A couple of salmon lurking within the fish pass. One of them heads up the counter five minutes later, while the other disappears back downstream. 23/10/26.*



***Figure 9 –*** *Three salmon and a sea trout (bottom left) moving upstream through the Turbine House earlier in October while the water was still relatively clear. In the first half of October, all recorded fish were seen using this route.*



***Figure 10 –*** *The Turbine House pass reduced to a trickle on the left. After wrestling with possibly what was once an entire bramble hedgerow trapped within the entrance, the flow was returned to normal. 26/10/25.*

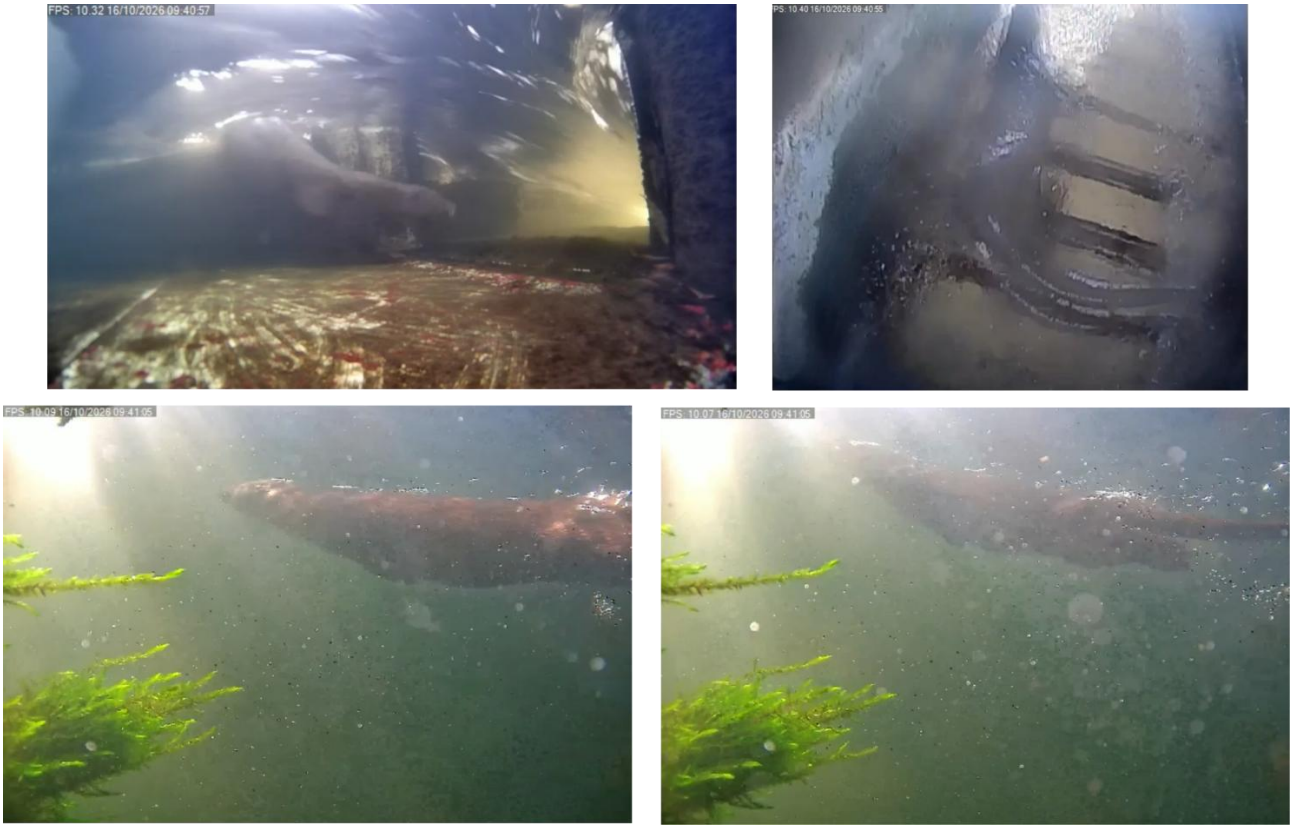
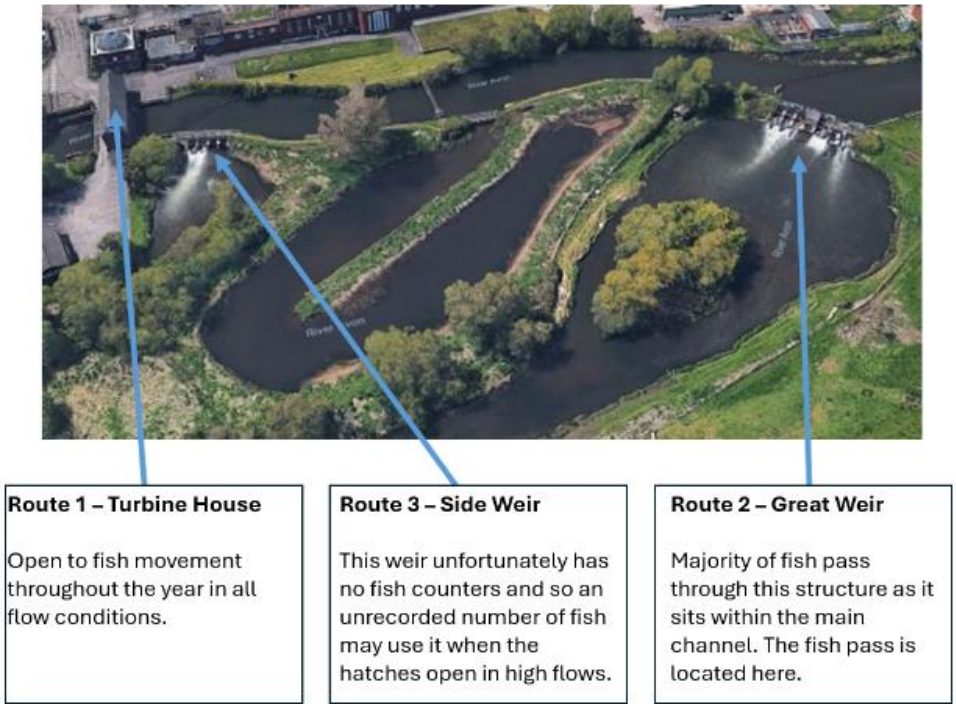
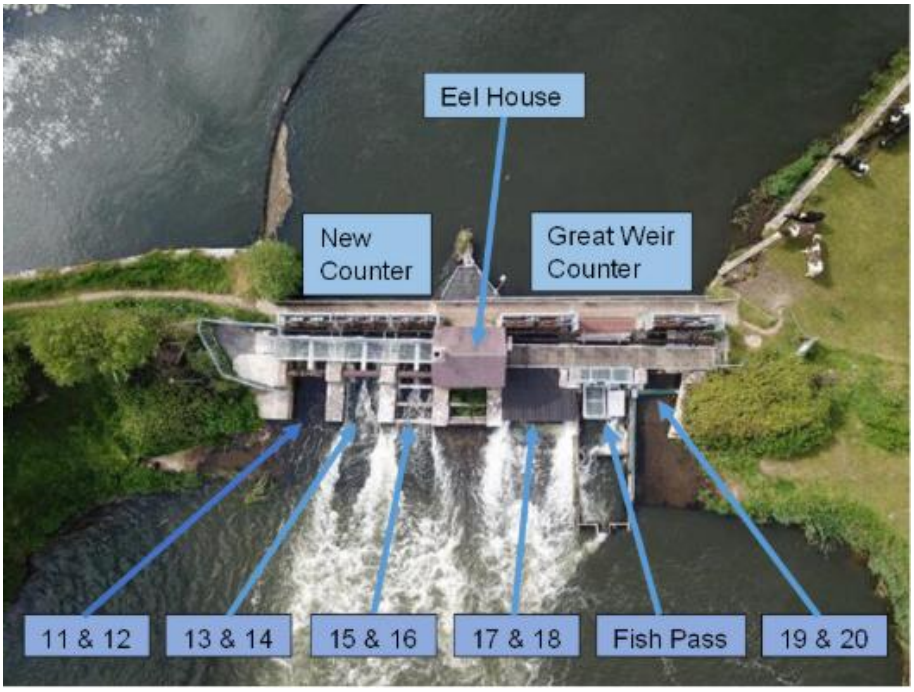


***Figure 11 –*** *An otter taking a ride down the fish pass counter. 16/10/25.*

## For further information

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*Great Weir showing the location of each channel.*