

Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd - Project Profile

Project Name: Thetford Sluice Modular Fish and Elver Pass

Client: Environment Agency and Birse Civils



Thetford, a small market town in Suffolk, features an important crossing of the Little Ouse River and a large sluice gate structure which controls its levels, Thetford Sluice. The original sluice design lacked any fish pass facility, but featured a canoe portage slope against the head-wall. Inspections carried out by the Environment Agency and ACE concluded that a fish pass could be incorporated into the portage, whilst retaining its original use. Birse Civils were awarded the reconditioning works package for this structure and looked to ACE to design and install a practical solution for this fish pass to also include eel passage. This would bring the whole structure in line with EU and Environment Agency requirements. ACE's unique system is the UK's first modular HDPE fish pass, containing a number of fantastic features:

Each ACE modular section (which can include Elver passage) simply bolts down saving a vast amount of installation time, a more traditional time consuming installation would have had each baffle supplied separately requiring complex setting out and mounting.

The simplicity of this product dramatically reduces the required amount of civil work needed, which reduced the cost of the overall project for the Environment Agency.

In addition to the large cost saving of using HDPE in place of Stainless steel the ACE HDPE system significantly reduces the theft potential as HDPE has little or no scrap value. HDPE has a much lower material carbon footprint than a Stainless steel comparative.

Let's not forget that this design, alongside our many other solutions has allowed the safe and continuous fish and eel passage to all our underwater friends!

Aquatic Control Engineering and Birse Civils have worked closely on a number of similar sites in the past including St. Germans pumping station. Thetford is yet another example of our on-going professional collaboration. ACE is proud to have designed and worked in conjunction the Fisheries Technical Manager for the EA, and would like to thank Kye Jerrom for his assistance throughout this project.



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