

The Environment Agency owned site, Saddlebow Tail sluice structure was built in 1950; the structure is currently undergoing a major refurbishment after 60 years good service. Part of the refurbishment works was to insure the structure complies with the new Elver and Eel pass regulations. This crucial regulation is in place to help stop and hopefully reverse the dwindling Eel and elver figures, currently showing stocks reduced an alarming 90% over the past decade.

The special materials chosen by the Environment agency reflect the sensitive surroundings the Elver pass is located within. ACE have supplied channel sections made using ACE's unique 100% recycled material, Low Density Polyethylene (LPDE). A further unique ACE design allows for the bristle brush to be impregnated directly into the channel sections. The two combinations further reduce the use of virgin materials and kept the CO2 footprint of the project to a minimum. LPDE is UV stable as are all of ACE's HDPE products; it also has a good Impact strength and is extremely durable.

Unfortunately as a result of the sluice beings set in a remote location the sluice equipment suffers frequent from vandalism. To overcome the problem ACE provided a simple solution, basically bury and in effect hide where possible the Elver pass. This was achieved using ACE's unique Elver friendly spiral wound bristle, which simply mounts within a standard 'off the shelf' service pipe. The basic bristle material used within the pipes are exactly the same as ACE use on their bristle boards, I.e. helping to minimising mucus loss and provide safe easy passage for Elver's. The second anti-vandalism feature for areas whereas burying was not a possibility was to mount heavy duty guards at 45° along any remaining prone elver pass. The 45° mesh guards have been specially designed to hinge up to allow any servicing, monitoring and maintenance over the elver channel. Ace would like to thank the Environment Agency for this opportunity also for all their assistance provided with the project scheme.

