

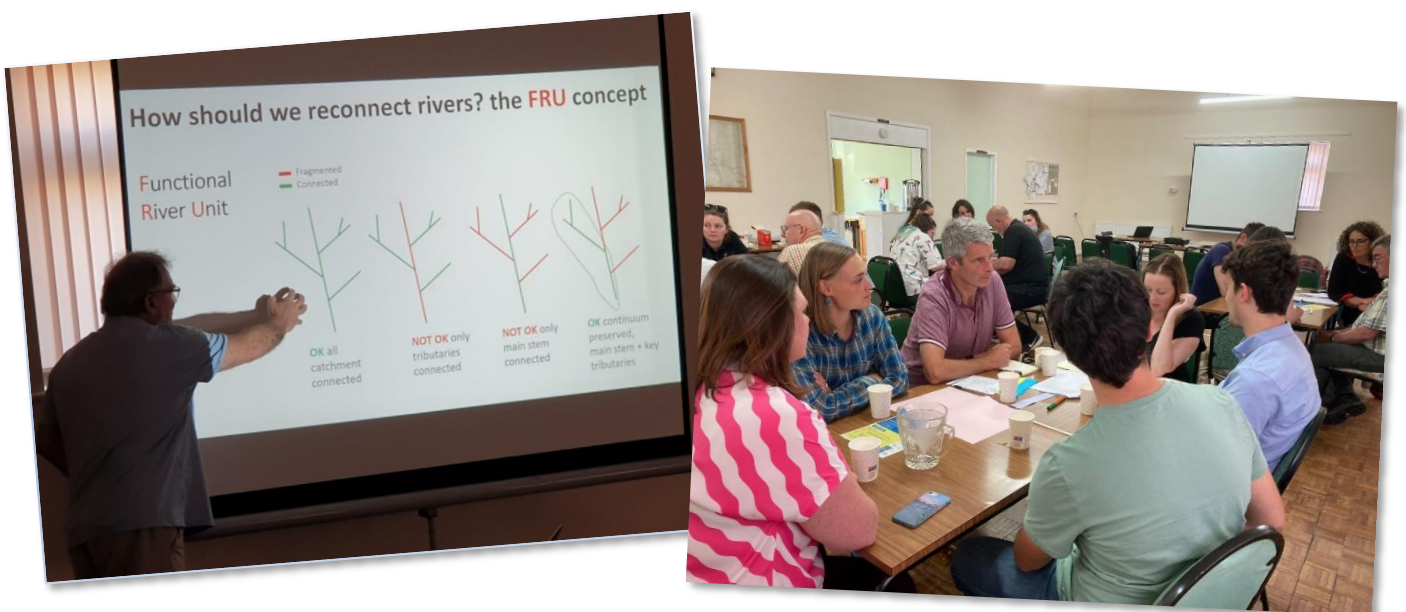
Reconnecting the Salmon Rivers of Wales – Barrier Bootcamp

20th to 21st June 2022

Habitat fragmentation caused by instream barriers is a leading cause of loss of river biodiversity and is responsible for the decline of Atlantic salmon and other migratory fish in Wales, and elsewhere. The situation of Atlantic salmon in Wales is critical and all populations have been declared ‘at risk’ or ‘probably at risk’ by Natural Resources Wales.

Reconnecting the Salmon Rivers of Wales seeks to address these issues through removing or modifying barriers on five iconic Welsh salmon rivers, helping to reconnect 100km of river, revert the impacts caused by barrier fragmentation.

For more information, see the [project website](#)



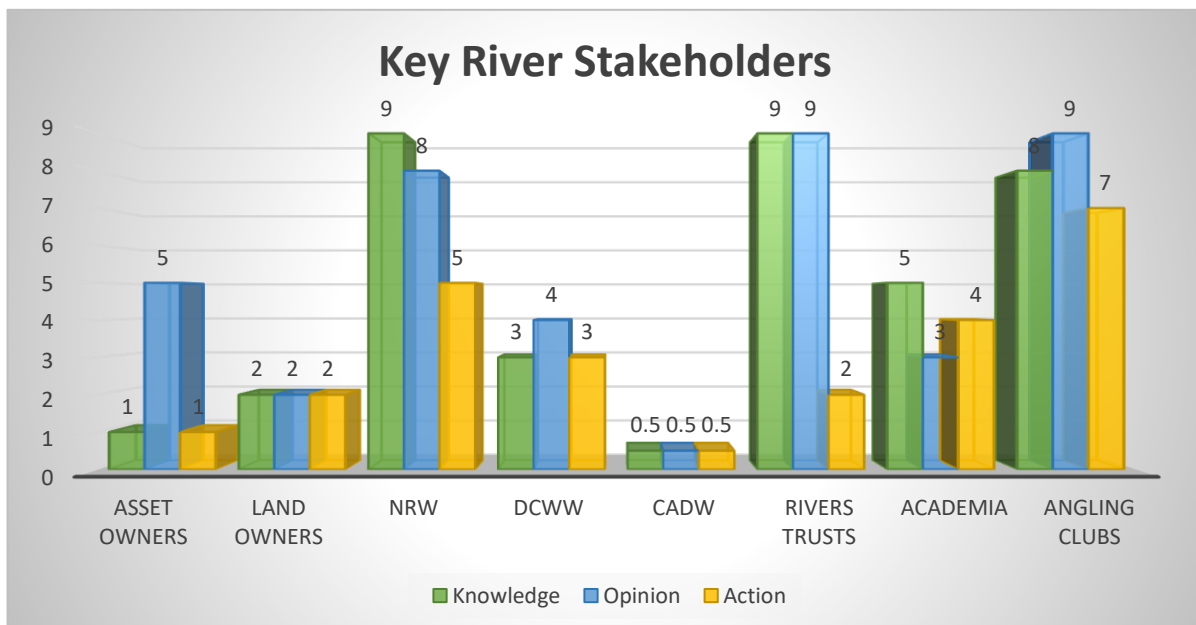
Presentations

Ben Wilson	Natural Resources Wales	Salmon and Sea Trout Stock Assessment
Dave Charlesworth	Natural Resources Wales	Barrier Types and Their Impacts on Atlantic Salmon Populations
Simon Evans	The Wye and Usk Foundation	Reconnecting Rivers: Benefits of Barrier Removal
Carlos Garcia de Leaniz	Swansea University	Prioritising barriers for Removal
Alex Lumsdon	West Wales Rivers Trust	Removing Different Types of Barriers
Caroline Orr	Afonydd Cymru	Monitoring and Documenting the Benefits of Barrier Removal

Breakout Session

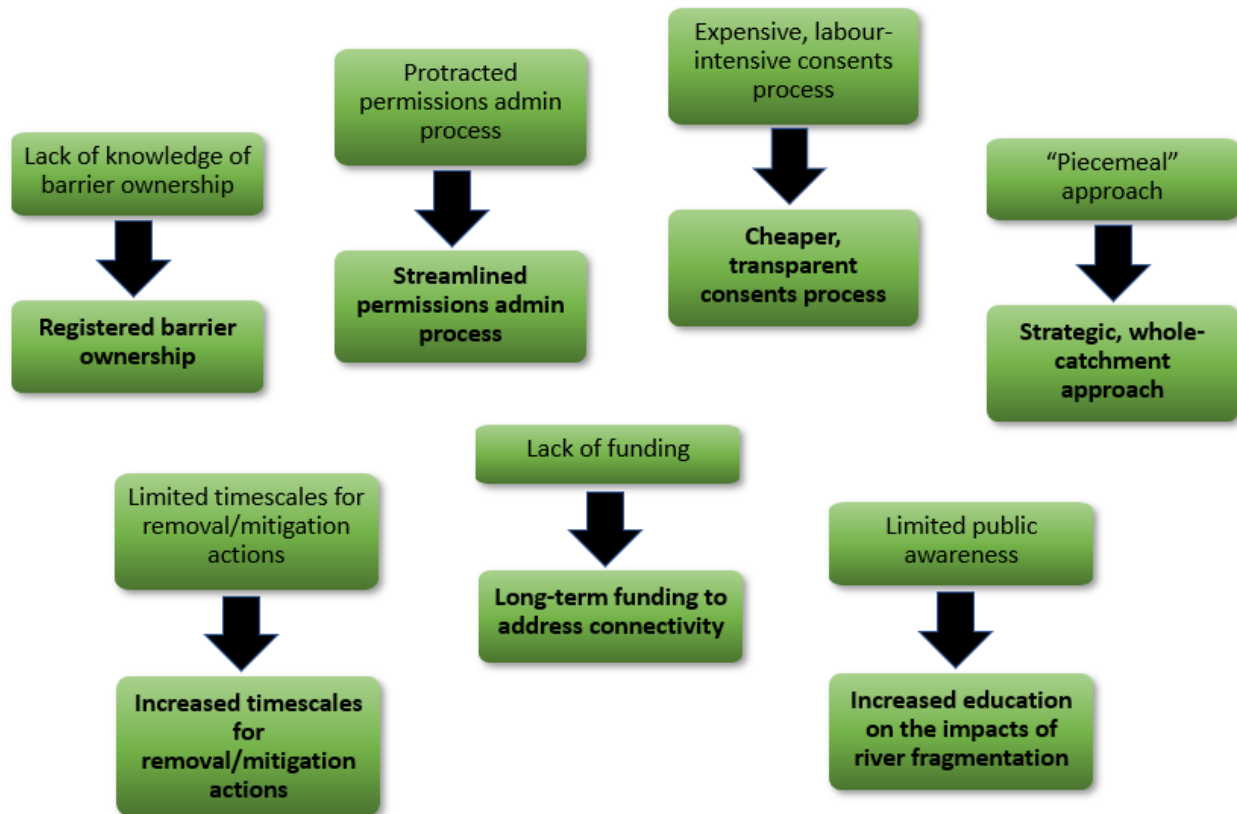
The following information was collated using [Theory of Change](#), a methodology for planning, participation, adaptive management and evaluation.

Over 20 attendees from Academia, Rivers Trusts, Angling Clubs and Natural Resources Wales identified key stakeholders in barrier removal/mitigation and analysed their perceived knowledge of barrier impacts, the strength of opinion on the subject and ability to put this knowledge and opinion into action. The main stakeholders in barrier removal were identified as:



The breakout session attendees used the perceived levels of knowledge, opinion and action as illustrated by the chart on page 2, as the basis for distinguishing current impediments to barrier removal and mitigation and how each of these impediments could be eliminated or reduced.

The following impediments and linked essential changes were the most common themes identified across each of the four breakout session groups:



An action plan based on the information collated during the Reconnecting the Salmon Rivers of Wales Barrier Bootcamp will be presented in a structured White Paper. The White Paper will form an authoritative guide that will discuss issues surrounding barrier removal and mitigation and will present positive solutions to current issues.

On day two of the Reconnecting the Salmon Rives of Wales Barrier Bootcamp, attendees were provided hands on demonstrations and training at project sites on the River Honddu, Brecon.

Training videos will be made available on the [project website](#).



In memory of Len Powell, former Secretary of the Afan Valley Angling and Conservation Club, who did so much to improve the conservation of Welsh Rivers.

