

# Upgrading gauging station access

We delivered a custom access solution for the Environment Agency to support safer inspections in Devon.

stonbury

## In summary

- A bespoke retractable access system was installed at a Devon gauging station to enable safer, one-person inspections
- Offsite fabrication and client testing ensured high build quality and minimal site disruption
- The project supports long-term flood management by improving water level monitoring in the River Tale

The completed system enables consistent access for monitoring, supporting accurate water level tracking and contributing to local flood forecasting and management.

It also sets a new standard for future installations in similar environments.

## The benefits

- Improves operator safety with a secure access point
- Protects gauging accuracy by maintaining river flow
- Enables inspections and maintenance without additional infrastructure
- Reduces risk and future costs through a low-tech solution
- Supports flood monitoring and sets a precedent for future sites

## The need

Safer access to a gauging station in Devon was required to allow Environment Agency teams to carry out inspections, routine maintenance and sampling in the river channel.

The challenge was to introduce a solution that would not obstruct river flow, interfere with the accuracy of gauging equipment or increase flood risk - all while improving safety for operators.

## The solution

We delivered a bespoke fold-away access system designed to meet the Environment Agency's safety and monitoring requirements, without changing the channel profile or affecting flow.

All components were manufactured offsite in collaboration with a supply partner, with some refinements made to the design before a factory acceptance test confirmed performance.

On site, we built a recessed, self-draining concrete foundation within the riverbank to house the platform and ladder. Once installed, the system could be manually operated by a single person and safely stowed to leave a flush, secure surface.

We provided training to Environment Agency staff to support safe use and long-term maintenance.

1<sup>st</sup>

system of its kind installed by the Environment Agency

100%

manual design with no power requirement

1

person operation for safer, simpler inspections



Enhance