Improving 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 **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.

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

1st
system of its kind our clients installed

100%
manual access