

Hampshire Avon Fish Counter

Knapp Mill, June 2026



Figure 1 – A sea trout rising within the lower section of the fish pass.

Summary

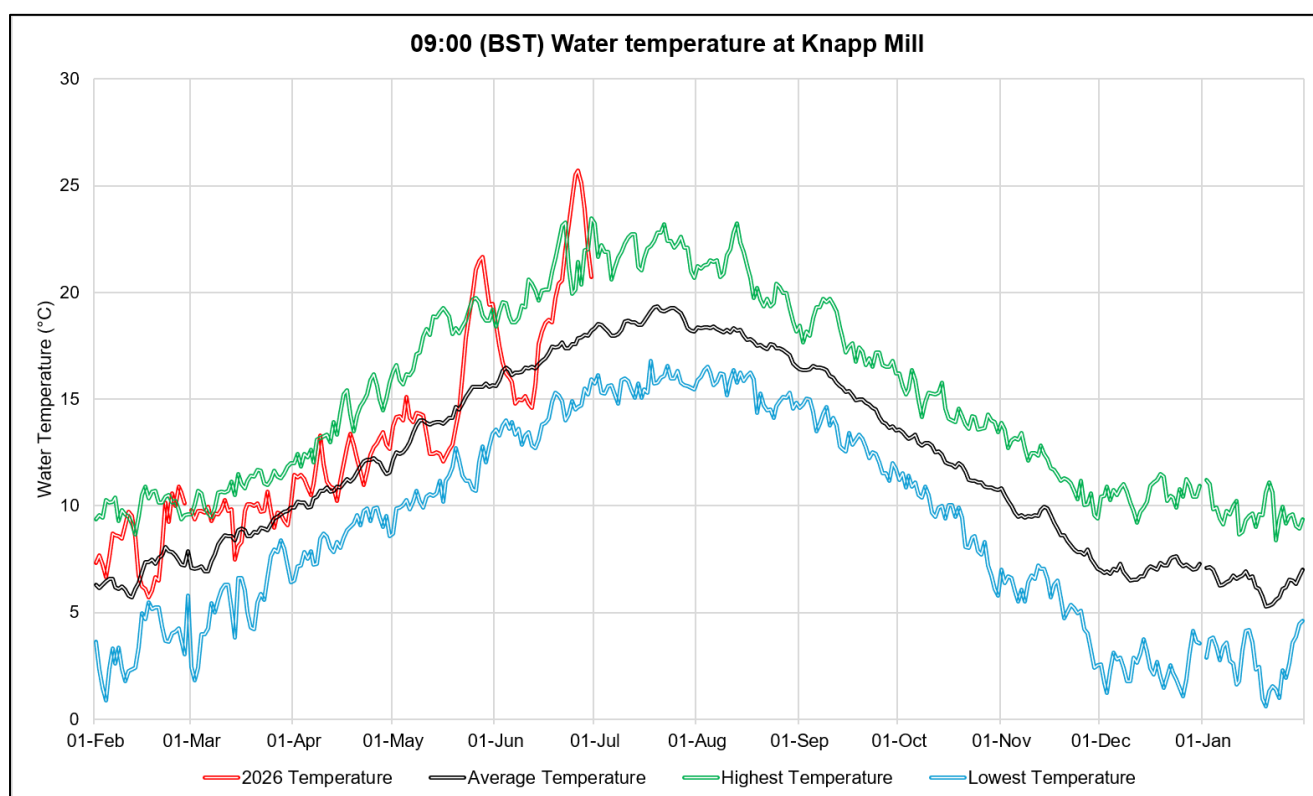
Unfortunately, a couple of power cuts affected the counter data at channels 17 & 18, which were the busiest routes in June. To compound frustrations, the second power cut corrupted some existing counter data. To summarise the impact of these faults on channels 17 & 18:

- 6 June 12:00 to 10 June 13:00 there is no counter data or footage available.
- 10 June 13:00 to 14 June 15:00 there is no counter data but the footage is complete. Motion detection on channel 18 was utilised (this recorded the same fish as the counter when compared for other dates, so appears reliable). Video footage for channel 17 was watched for this period.
- 20 June 13:00 to 22 June 13:00 there is no counter data or footage available.

Therefore, there are 6 days without any data for channels 17 & 18, and 4 days where the count may be slightly reduced if the camera has missed events. As graph 3 shows, there is quite a bit of variation in daily counts through June, so estimating the number of fish missed during the counter downtime is difficult.

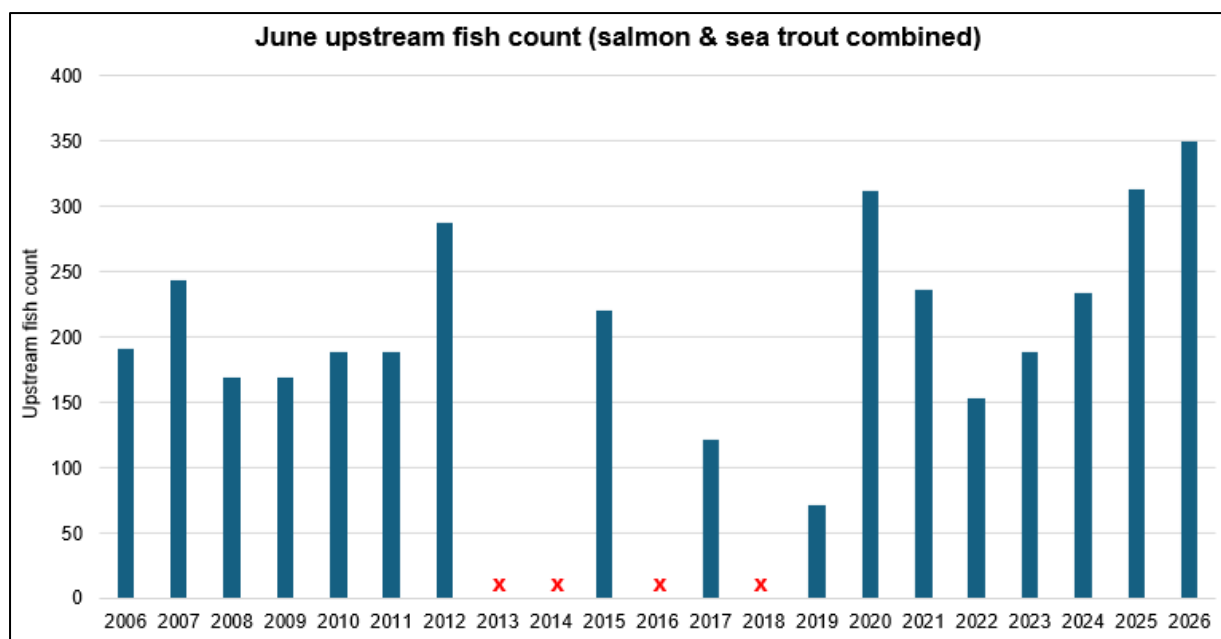
On a positive note, despite the power issues, the monthly total for upstream fish movement at Knapp Mill is a record for June. 350 salmonids were recorded (170% of the long-term average), beating the previous record from last year of 313. Of these, 171 were identified as salmon and 110 as sea trout. Additionally, 9 fish were recorded moving downstream through the counters.

The second half of June has seen water temperatures significantly above average, and new record 09:00 daily highs have been set for the 23rd through to the 29th. At 18:00 on 25 June, the water temperature rose above 27°C for the first time on our record.

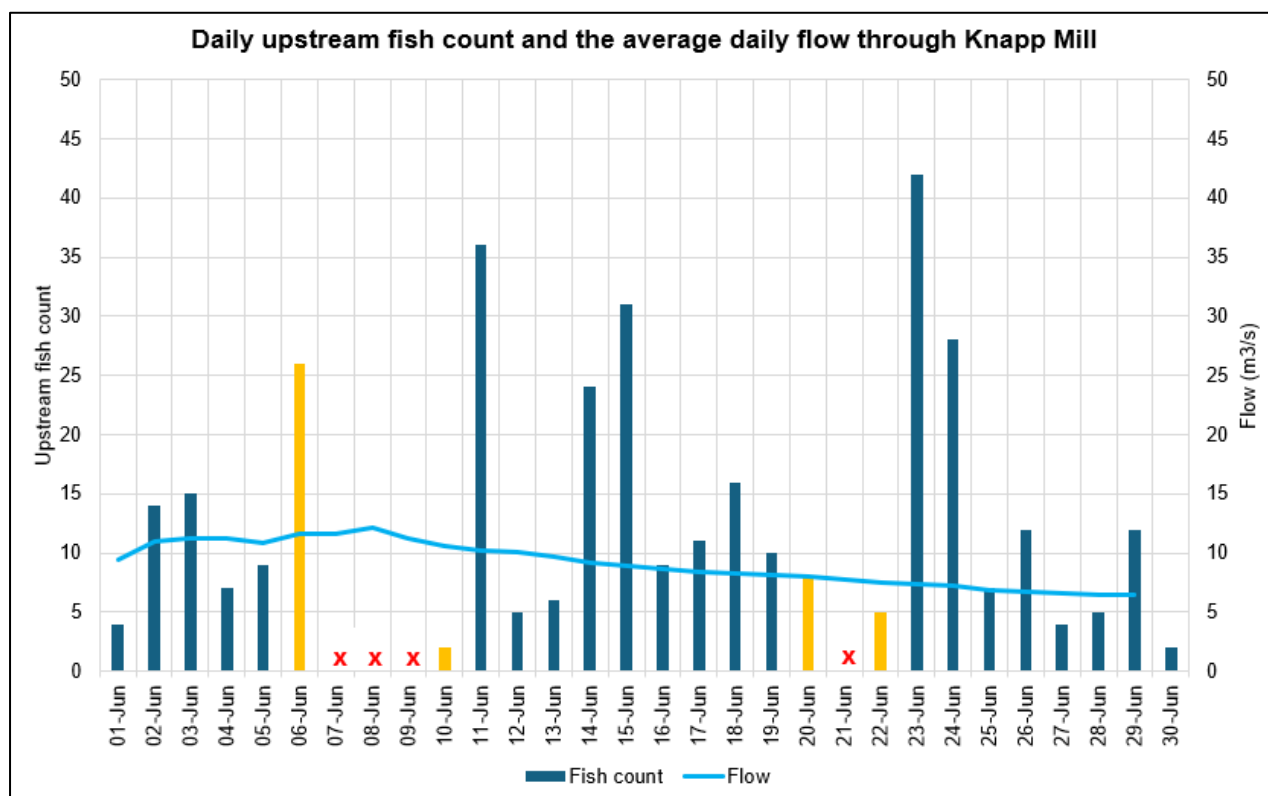


Graph 1 - A comparison of the long-term average 09:00 water temperature data, as well as highest and lowest daily 09:00 water temperature (all from 01/02/2006 to 31/01/2026), with the current year's water temperature data.

Data



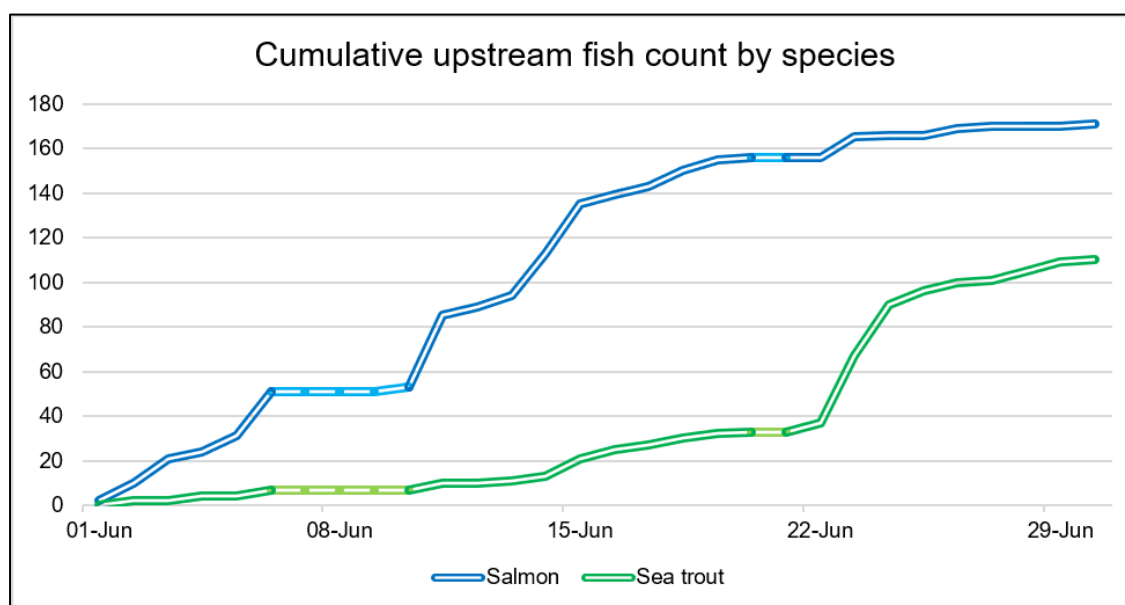
Graph 2 - A comparison of the total upstream fish count in June across each year (excluding 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018).



Graph 3 - 2026 upstream fish count each day in June alongside the flow through Knapp Mill for the same period. This data combines both salmon and sea trout. Data in orange represents daily data that is incomplete.

Following the trend of previous years at Knapp Mill, the first part of June is dominated by salmon before sea trout become more prevalent later in the month (graph 4). Owing mostly to an influx of sea trout, the 42 fish recorded on the 23rd is a daily record for June.

June has experienced greater salmon movement than sea trout every year from 2006 to 2023, but 2024 & 2025 saw a reversal of this. This year therefore has seen a return to the more typical situation.



Graph 4 – A comparison of salmon movement against that of sea trout through the counters in June. The lighter sections of the graphs represent the missing/incomplete data.

Table 1 is a comparison of February-June salmon counts since 2023, including species estimates for unidentified fish (hence the increase from the 171 identified salmon mentioned above). The last occasion that the annual salmon count increased from the preceding year was 2020. The 2025 annual salmon count was 430, so 2026 is well on course to improve on that.

	2023	2024	2025	2026
February	4	4	14	26
March	7	36	10	1
April	43	74	22	7
May	82	47	47	179
June	136	42	93	213
Total	272	204	186	426

Table 1 – A comparison of salmon counts (both identified on camera and estimated for unidentified fish) since 2023.

Gallery

Below is a collection of images taken from the counter cameras. Figure 2 offers a sense of scale for any images taken within the fish counters.



Figure 2 – Overhead view of the Turbine House (left) and Fish Pass (right). The distance between neighbouring electrodes, as indicated by each yellow line, is 45 cm.



Figure 3 – Two of the many salmon seen passing up channel 18. The salmon on the left had leapt into the channel, as we see it splashing down through the surface. 05/06/26 (left), 06/06/26 (right).



Figure 4 – A couple more salmon at channel 17 on the busiest day for fish movement in June, though by this point the majority were sea trout. Some streaks of aerated water can be seen across the lens on the left image which has prevented the motion detection here being as successful as on channel 18. 23/06/26



Figure 5 – A sea trout moving through the light at channel 18. 25/06/26



Figure 6 – Close ups of a couple of sea trout in channel 18. The sea trout typically favour the edges of the large channels when moving upstream, while salmon more often pass through the centre. 15/06/26



Figure 7 – The first image of a salmonid sharing the screen with a coarse fish. Generally the dace here scatter as soon as the sea trout enter the fish pass. 28/06/26.



Figure 8 – After mingling with the dace, the sea trout then rushes up into the higher section of the fish pass and straight through the counter without a pause. The top two images are the lower section looking from the left bank side. The remaining images are then the higher section facing downstream (with the counter entrance to the left, where the fish is heading). 28/06/26



Figure 9 – A sea trout pausing to rest at the top of the fish pass. 90% of the fish using this route were sea trout. 17/06/26.



Figure 10 – A salmon making a splash at the Turbine House. 15/06/26



Figure 11 – A sea trout emerging from the Turbine House. 13/06/26



Figure 12 – The motion detection at the Turbine House picked up a few salmonid parr across the second half of June.



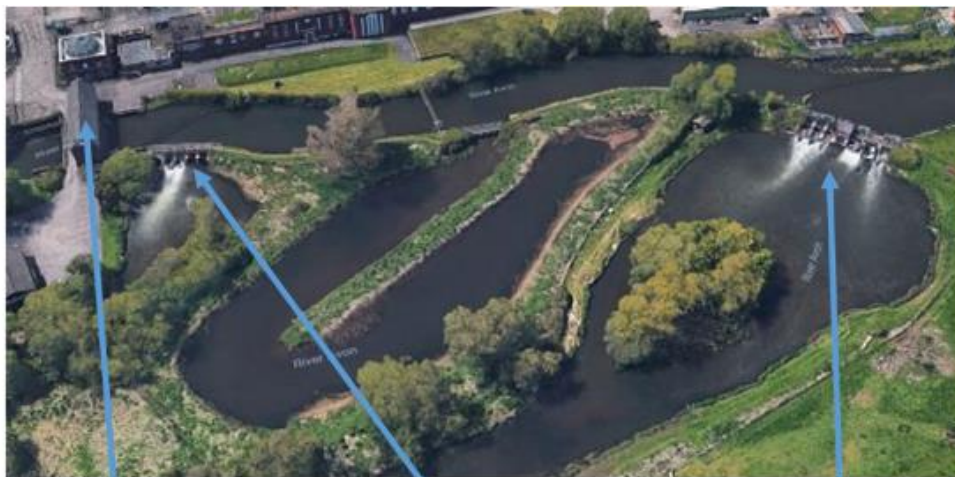
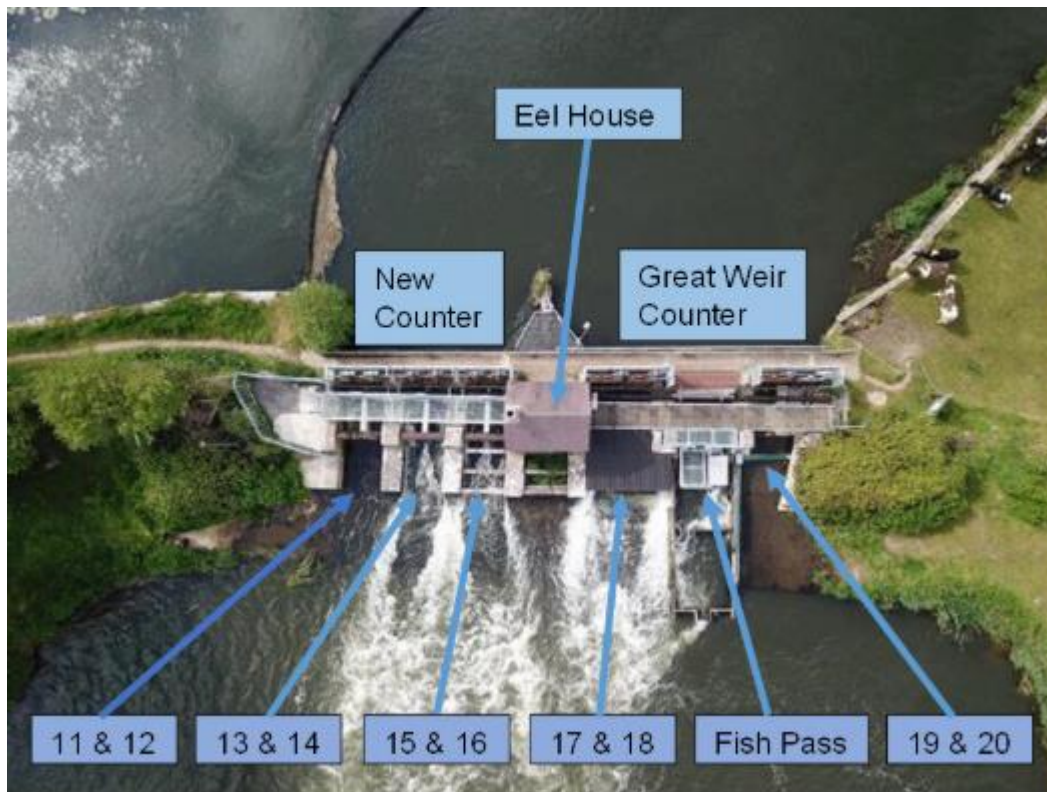
Figure 13 – Apologies for the aesthetically displeasing blur, but this image appears to have captured a pike in the act of attacking its prey before they're both sent down channel 18 together. It's hard to make out the details, but their shadows are converging at the head-end of both fish. 16/06/26.



Figure 14 – Ending with a couple of particularly busy scenes from dace-watch at the fish pass. 22/06/26

For further information

Contact: KnappMill@environment-agency.gov.uk



Route 1 – Turbine House

Open to fish movement throughout the year in all flow conditions.

Route 3 – Side Weir

This weir unfortunately has no fish counters and so an unrecorded number of fish may use it when the hatches open in high flows.

Route 2 – Great Weir

Majority of fish pass through this structure as it sits within the main channel. The fish pass is located here.