

## InvesTEESgate electrofishing surveys 2016.

From the successful start of the of the InvesTeegate electrofishing program in 2014 and the continued works through the summer of 2015 the Trust has undertaken its third year of surveys throughout the summer of 2016. The 63 site previously surveyed were re visited and a further 21 sites were also added bringing the total to 84 sites investigated.

Surveys were once again carried out by Richard Holmes from the trust and local volunteers and over The time given by the volunteers was during a normal working week (mon-fri) and the assistance was first class. All helped with the capture of fish, the measuring and completion of record sheets. In total 11 volunteers helped out with lots of new faces helping out.

River levels have been exceptionally low and clear for the majority of the time, which on has caused some of the sites previously surveyed to run dry, so alternative sites nearby were used. Carrying out the surveys with these river levels made wading easier and also seeing and capturing the fish easier. Some of the volunteers had never carried out electrofishing before so these conditions were ideal. What has been great this year has been the capture of more eels that have been previously seen in surveys and also the capture of some Sea Trout (the first adult migratory fish caught during any of our surveys).



Pictures: Above: Kelvin Cox and Sheree Wilson with nice adult sea trout.

Below: Michael and Sheree measuring fish on Scur Beck, Zoe at work on Percy Beck.





Pictures clockwise from above: Richard Thompson measuring on Nor Beck, Alex getting hands on at Crag Bridge, Paul Clay near the top of Scur beck and Cicely Cox with a good trout from Sleightholme Beck.



Name of Beck	Number of sites	No. volunteers
Wilden Beck	11	1
Tutta Beck	4	2
Thorsgill Beck	3	1
Beer Beck	5	1
Percy Beck	10	3
Scur Beck	14	2
Black Beck	2	1
Deepdale Beck	10	4
Gill Beck	1	1
Sleightholme beck	3	2
River Greta	6	2
Nor Beck	4	2
Hutton Beck	9	5

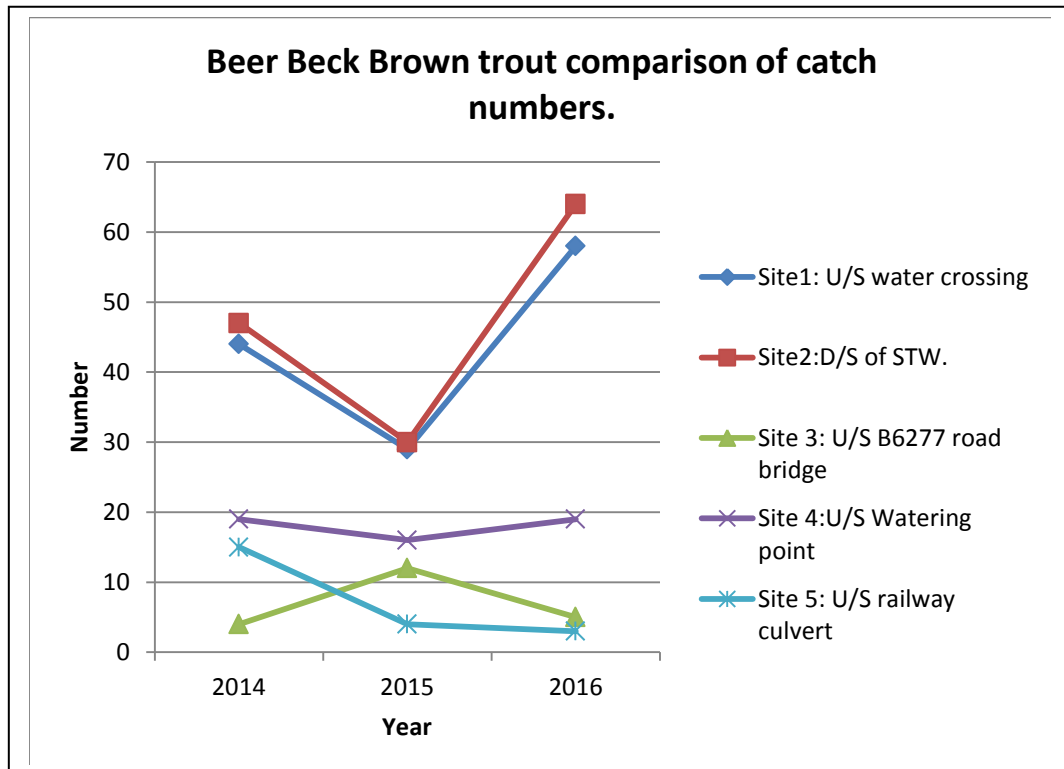
<b>Volunteer Name</b>	<b>Activity undertaken</b>	<b>No. hours given</b>
Kelvin Cox	E fish	55
Tim Raw	E fish	5
David Bottoms	E fish	8
Sheree Wilson	E fish	17
Zoe Fraser	E fish	39
Olly Shepherd	E Fish	16.5
Michael White	E Fish	5
Alex Sijpesteijn	E Fish	4
Paul Clay	E Fish	8.5
Richard Thompson	E Fish	8
Cicely Cox	E Fish	5
Jo Holmes	E Fish	4.5
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>175.5</b>

<b>Staff Activity</b>	<b>Time (Days)</b>
site permissions /land owner contact	10
Surveys	23
Survey follow up and write up and data analysis	9

## Findings for 2016.

The surveys carried out over the summer of 2016 made some interesting discoveries on the various becks surveyed, it has shown marked differences in fish numbers on a number of sites previously surveyed over since 2014 (see example below). Over all on most sites fish numbers were down on previous years catches (with some exceptions), this may well be linked to the water levels that have been experienced. With large floods at the end of last year and the early part of this year which may well have caused some wash out of very young juveniles and eggs from spawning areas and the very low levels through the summer possibly causing some fish to relocate within the river system. The surveys did turn up a much higher numbers of eels ranging in size from small 200mm youngsters through to eels in excess of 600mm long, these were found across a number of sites as far upstream as the top of Sleightholme Beck above Bowes. It was fantastic to encounter some adult Sea Trout as well on the upper Greta.

Example of comparison of brown trout numbers caught over the survey period.



## Comparison of Brown trout numbers caught for Tutta Beck.

